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AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



PHOTO CHAS. A. BELDEN, PRATTVILLE, WYO.

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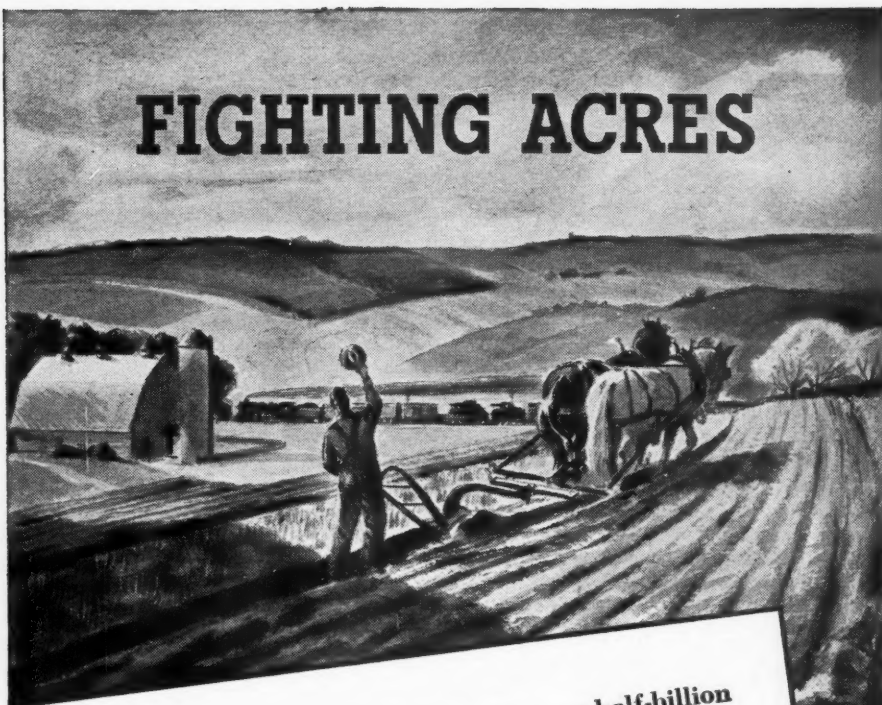
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In doing their job the railroads face pressing problems similar to the farmers'.

A lot of our men have joined the armed forces. We cannot get all the extra engines and cars the rush of work requires.

But just as the farmers are going all-out to produce everything they can, we'll do our level best to continue to carry everything they grow as swiftly and reliably as we always have.

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN



RAILROADS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

LETTERS

"CUSHIONITIS"

I just read in my dad's copy of the **PRODUCER** for March the comments by Stanley Sloan of Jackson County, S. D. He expresses my sentiments to a tee. What he says about his country is very true here. All I can add is a name for that disease that has ruined a lot of good cow-hands. It's "cushionitis." One bright spot for those downhearted motorized cattlemen is that gas rationing may clear the gates of the shipping pens of that swarm of solicitors and speculators that have been descending on us for several years. That would be some compensation at least.—HOWARD JOHNSON, Johnson County, Wyo.

CREDITS TAYLOR ACT

We have had some very good rains in the northwestern part of Arizona this winter, and during this week's (March 6) rains it is estimated that an average of three inches fell over the entire district. Our part of the country is looking good, and our ranges in general are far better than they have been for years. This I contend is largely due to the Taylor act, for the following reasons: (1) It gave the cowmen control of their allotments, and they did not overstock as most of them did in the past; and (2) it brought the cowmen closer together so that we started our local association, and we have stuck together far better than in the past and therefore have been able to give the American National Live Stock Association some support.—T. G. WALTER, Mohave County, Ariz.

SUMMER GAINS

Noticing a recent article about summer gains on cattle I thought you might be interested in my own experience this summer. The high winds and excessive growth of tumble weeds the year before had put our fences in bad condition so that it was May 21 when I felt it was possible to separate our cattle and be sure they would stay in the pastures in which they were placed. On that date weight of cattle in one of our pastures was 596 pounds. On June 23 the cattle weighed 706 pounds, a gain of 110 pounds in the 33 days. On July 20 they weighed 792 pounds—a gain of 86 pounds. On August 20 they weighed 855 pounds—a gain of 63 pounds, and on September 20 they weighed 871 pounds—a gain of 16 pounds. The cattle were weighed the five different times without any shrink but at the same time of day and with conditions as nearly the same as we could determine. On October 1 they were weighed and sold with an overnight stand at the ranch. They weighed then 845 pounds—a loss of 26 pounds from September. However, in my opinion, had they been weighed

(Continued on Page 33)

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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THE PROPOSED CEILINGS

By F. E. MOLLIN

FROM THE VERY FIRST MEETING

held by OPA more than a year ago relative to ceilings on livestock products, there has been debate over whether or not such ceilings should be extended to livestock. Unquestionably, this almost constant agitation has been one of the factors contributing to the crisis in the meat industry today because the constant uncertainty as to actions which might suddenly be taken is not conducive to normal operations in the feedlot, and we desperately need now not only normal production but far beyond that if we are anywhere near to meet the growing demand for meat from our armed forces, our allies, and our own civilian population, the latter with the greatest purchasing power in history.

It might be well to review briefly the sequence of events since OPA came into power. It will be recalled that, even before the price-fixing act was passed, we had the beginning of price control through executive order without much in the way of specific legislation to authorize it. In our industry, hides were the first to feel the touch of control, and almost two years ago the price was pegged at 15 cents, setting prices back from 1½ to 2½ cents per pound, with the result that packer hides were all thrown in one pile unsorted and sold at the ceiling price—a possible forerunner of what we may expect if ceilings are imposed upon the live animals.

With the coming of specific legislative authority, price control was rapidly extended and ceilings on beef, pork, and lamb and mutton were imposed.

It seems fair to say that from the very beginning OPA was concerned altogether too much with holding down the price and altogether too little with seeing that production was maintained. As witness to this, the beef ceilings were imposed upon the basis of March prices a year ago, apparently deliberately chosen because at that time the relatively heavy run of well finished cattle were selling at the usual seasonal small spread over the lower grades. In other words, the March situation was perpetuated throughout the year, removing to a large extent the incentive for finishing cattle and thus adding substantially to

the nation's meat supply. The joint livestock committee, on which President Frank Boice and Secretary Mollin served throughout the year, repeatedly called attention to this error in planning and urged that it be rectified, warning that otherwise there was grave danger of a deficient beef supply in the winter and spring of 1942-43. The warnings were unheeded until the middle of December when new ceilings were established too late to have a material effect upon the beef crop then in process of making, and the sharp shortage in slaughter, to say nothing of the drop in average weight, is largely due to the failure to establish beef prices on a level that would encourage production and at the same time give feeders the necessary assurance that they could expect a stable condition throughout the feeding period.

Early in July came the first concerted effort on the part of the packing industry to force the imposition of ceilings on livestock. The lead was taken by a group of independent packers, and strong representations were made to OPA and to Secretary of Agriculture Wickard that, unless ceilings were immediately imposed, especially on hogs, many of these packers would be forced to the wall. These warnings have been repeated, but packer failures have decreased rather than increased. Until recently there had been no indication that action was imminent, although from time to time there were rumors that the matter was actively under consideration. The pressure was renewed when Price Administrator Prentiss Brown took over the OPA, and the issue is now rather clearly drawn. It can be stated in this fashion: Shall OPA impose ceilings on hogs (with later action possible on cattle and sheep) to protect the packer who claims he is being squeezed, guarantee his profit, and thereby run the risk of checking any possibility of expanding production, if not actually causing a decrease in production; or shall the producer who takes the big risk be encouraged to carry on and do the best he can with decreased man power and increased costs of operation to provide the increased meat that is so badly needed? In the event the latter method is

followed, it may be necessary to find some way of protecting the packer, and various methods have either already been proposed or are now under consideration. The principal remedies proposed are:

1. Rationing of meat.
2. Licensing of slaughterers.
3. Setting aside for war uses certain designated percentages of packer production.
4. New dollars-and-cents beef retail ceilings (set ceilings on pork were recently put into effect).
5. Better enforcement of existing orders.

This is the first time in many years when there has been a direct issue involving the producers on one side and the packer or a group of packers on the other. Without any intention to discredit the value of the processor in our scheme of meat production, it nevertheless seems evident that the millions of producers should rate the first consideration. A hog or a steer or a lamb must be produced before the packer comes into the picture. With the country genuinely alarmed as to the dangers of a serious food shortage, particularly in the event that feed crops during 1943 should not come up to normal, it is dangerous to play along any further with the original theory of OPA. Production must come first and price second, if we are to be safe.

These issues were hotly debated at a hearing before OPA in Washington on March 17, with Marvin Jones, assistant to Director of Economic Stabilization Byrnes, and Grover Hill, assistant secretary of agriculture, also at the head table. Witnesses were present from all the principal hog producing states of the Middle West, with the American National Live Stock Association represented by President Boice and Secretary Mollin and the National Wool Growers' Association by Secretary Marshall and Byron Wilson, chairman of its legislative committee. The National Live Stock Marketing Association was represented by President Brumley and Secretary P. O. Wilson, the Kansas Livestock Association, by Secretary Will Miller, and the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association by Attorney Montague. Many other organizations from various parts of the country were represented.

Undoubtedly, the entire livestock industry of the country was represented

more adequately than in any similar meeting in the history of the country. The stockmen were unanimous in opposition to the imposition of ceilings on live animals. They were convinced that ceilings would not work but would merely add to the confusion now existing in the meat trade. One representative stated that instead of doing away with the black market they would create another one. The hog men were united in stating that they would increase production. In fact, they said that, following the statement made by Administrator Brown a week ago that hog ceilings would be imposed, many breeding sows had already been shipped.

At the end of the session it was announced that word would be sent to the country that night that the matter was reopened. Further discussions were to be held in the hopes that liquidation would be stopped until a solution of the problem had been reached.

It was the consensus of the stockmen that it was unfair to proceed with ceilings until the measures proposed, as outlined above, had been put into effect and a reasonable time given to test their efficiency. Of note, not only in the meeting but in previous meetings of the joint committee, were the unanimous actions on the part of producers. The range and the Corn Belt stood side by side and fought for the common good of the industry. They have been supported by the market interest generally, as it is the common belief that ceilings would impair greatly if not almost destroy the present system of competitive marketing, whether it be in a central market, a sale point, or in the country. The end is not yet, but at least from the range producer down through the Corn Belt feeder and on to the agencies which handle and sell the livestock, there has been a degree of co-operation never before witnessed in the industry.

DON'T WASTE FATS AND OILS

One pound of the millions of pounds of waste fats and oils that have gone down the drain and into garbage cans in America each year will produce enough glycerine to manufacture over a pound of gunpowder or enough to fire four 37 mm. anti-aircraft shells. It is glycerine's versatility that makes it valuable to our war effort. It is used in gun recoil mechanisms, hydraulic equipment, pumps, ship steering gears and compasses, and in protective coatings for tanks and guns. It is used in making surgical dressings, in many antiseptics, in tannic acid jellies for burns, in the preparation of the infection-preventing, life-saving sulfonamide ointments. Save household fats.

PACKER INSTITUTE OFFERS A PROGRAM FOR MEAT

THE AMERICAN MEAT INSTITUTE on March 19 suggested to government officials a program for dealing with the acute situation in the meat industry. It is published in full as follows:

Before giving you the details of a study that our industry has made concerning war-time meat problems, it seems proper that we should first give you the approach that was used in arriving at our conclusions.

The Board of Directors of the American Meat Institute, on February 23, appointed a committee to study the war-time industry problems in order that proper recommendations might be made to appropriate government officials. This committee was given authority to call in the best brains of the industry and use all the facilities of the industry to arrive at logical conclusions.

The committee put out a total of 55 assignments to 22 different committees, those committees being made up of more than 200 of the best qualified men in their respective lines, representing all segments of the industry. Some of these committees stayed in session practically continuously for from one to three weeks in the development of their part of the program. We believe that it is the most complete and the most exhaustive study that has ever been attempted by our industry, and it is our purpose now to outline to you their findings.

By far the most important conclusion that was substantiated repeatedly in the course of this industry investigation was the lack of balance between the total demand for meat and the supply of meat available at prevailing controlled prices. This lack of balance constitutes the basic difficulty with which both the industry and the government are confronted in coping with the acute national meat problem. The enlarged demand resulting from the substantial needs of all federal agencies and the sharply increased consumer buying power far outstrips the available supply at prevailing controlled prices. This is the principal cause for the existing dislocation.

If measures can be devised for bringing the total demand for meat in proper balance with the total supply available, a situation would exist roughly comparable with the economic conditions under which this industry normally functioned in the past. Unless and until this restoration of balance between demand and supply is achieved, maldistribution of meat, inequities between different segments of the industry, heavy financial losses within the industry, and difficulties of government agencies procuring their meat requirements are bound to continue.

On the other hand, if demand can be kept in balance with supply, natural economic forces will again operate within the meat and livestock industry and few artificial controls will be needed.

The industry study developed into a search for a means of accomplishing this.

What Control of Total Demand Involves

Since there is not enough meat to go around, the government must decide to what extent civilian demand for meat shall be restricted in order to free meat for government agencies. This decision, however, must be made with regard to the following principles:

1. Needs of the armed forces must come first, hence a relatively rigid quantity will be required. They must have what they need when they need it; therefore, the requirements of the armed forces must be determined in advance, not only in order that the quantity may be known, but also in order to control properly the other elements of total demand.

We do not mean to infer that it must necessarily follow that the same constant supply must be purchased each week, because the supply of livestock available does not always run constant. It is necessary that the armed forces buy increased amounts of meats when slaughter is large if meat produced is of the type that can be stored, in order that they may always have a suitable backlog of supply and also relieve pressure on civilian supply in seasons of shortage of livestock receipts. We recognize that our armed forces must come first and they must have first preference.

2. A relatively fixed quantity will be needed to meet the controlled demand of the civilian population. The quantity required must be determined in advance and a continuous flow of this meat must be assured.

Control of civilian demand represents a special problem, because the methods used not only must restrict the quantity of meat flowing into civilian channels but also must divide that meat equitably among consumers.

It was the conclusion of the studies made that a formal consumer rationing program is an essential part of controlling consumer demand. We have certain reservations with respect to the meat rationing program being considered by the government, as we understand it, but our industry committee stands ready to discuss these matters with appropriate government agencies as an important phase of the industry's over-all meat program.

3. The supply of meat made available for lend-lease and the lend-lease demand must be kept in balance so as not to ex-

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

ceed the supply made available for this purpose. The policy for purchase of this balance of meat for lend-lease must be planned on the best possible estimates of what the total supply of meat is and will be in the year ahead and by quarters for the year ahead, even by months for the quarter ahead, and down to a weekly basis. Individual purchases for lend-lease must be so managed that no purchase encroaches upon the current supply allotted to the combined needs of the armed forces and the civilian population.

If lend-lease quantities at any time need to be increased to draw upon the then existing allotment for armed forces and civilian supply, such increase must be made by first reducing the rationing coupon demand and the actual purchases can be made only after the reduced demand becomes effective and thereby makes the meat available.

To sum up the question of what control of total demand involves, let us repeat that proper administration calls for being realistic on the point that there must be no attempt to allot over 100 per cent of the available supply at any time. Qualified persons in our industry would be glad to sit down with men designated by the government to cover the details of this proposal.

What Control of Total Supply Involves

It is, of course, obvious that in order to balance the total tonnage of demand against the total tonnage of supply, it is essential that an administrator know what total supply is available for a given period. Our committees find that an essential part of the program is the permit system to control all types of slaughter in order to keep meat within normal commercial channels. This can be done without creating a serious inconvenience to the channels of trade, to the livestock producer, or to the farmer who slaughters for farm use. Industry committees stand ready to explore with government officials the possibilities for making a permit system workable and enforceable.

Under the permit system and with proper enforcement, a medium would be created through which weekly-monthly total production figures could be obtained, and this total production figure would be the first step toward the solving of the problem of distribution.

One step in the supply problem that must never be overlooked is the question of how to foster and encourage full production of livestock. Proper price relationships must be established all the way from the livestock producer and feeder through slaughtering and processing to effective retail price levels. Any program, to be sound, must be so designed as not to interfere with the incentives for producing and feeding the wanted kinds and weights of livestock.

Insofar as arbitrary price ceilings or differentials may exist, a living margin for producing, feeding, shipping, and marketing must be provided for. When

the supply of feed is small in relation to the livestock supply, prices and differentials should be designed toward maximum feed utilization. When the feed supply is large in relation to the livestock supply, prices and differentials should be designed toward full utilization of animals in meat production.

War-time Meat Management Essential

No program of artificial controls can be successful without effective enforcement.

Each additional layer of control multiplies the enforcement problem.

Each additional layer of control confuses the civilian population, and this confusion tends toward lack of compliance.

Our study indicates that whenever meat is not available for coupons, this tends to justify so-called black markets. In our opinion, the solution involves the following:

1. Continue to encourage the Department of Agriculture's constructive efforts to foster full production of livestock.
2. Control the slaughter of livestock and set up a program for measuring the exact tonnage of supply.
3. Through closest possible co-ordination, control the demand of government agencies, and, through rationing, the demand of civilian population, so that total demand never exceeds total supply for even one week.

Such a program, with enforcement, would place the control of prices in the hands of the government agency authorized to administer the war-time meat management progress. The centralized authority must require that government buying be managed from day to day and

even from hour to hour in a manner which will not upset the price level which the government has determined to maintain.

With full control of slaughter and effective control of the three elements of demand, all other controls become unnecessary. An efficient job can be done at these two levels only.

It should be possible by capable management in a central control office to regulate the total tonnage needed by kind, allocation to each of the three major outlets, so that the relationship of this total tonnage demand to the total tonnage of available supply will create from day to day a price level which the government administrator chooses.

The full operation of this program presumes that the price levels so controlled will satisfy the considerations of broad national policy, with due regard to the need for encouraging livestock production.

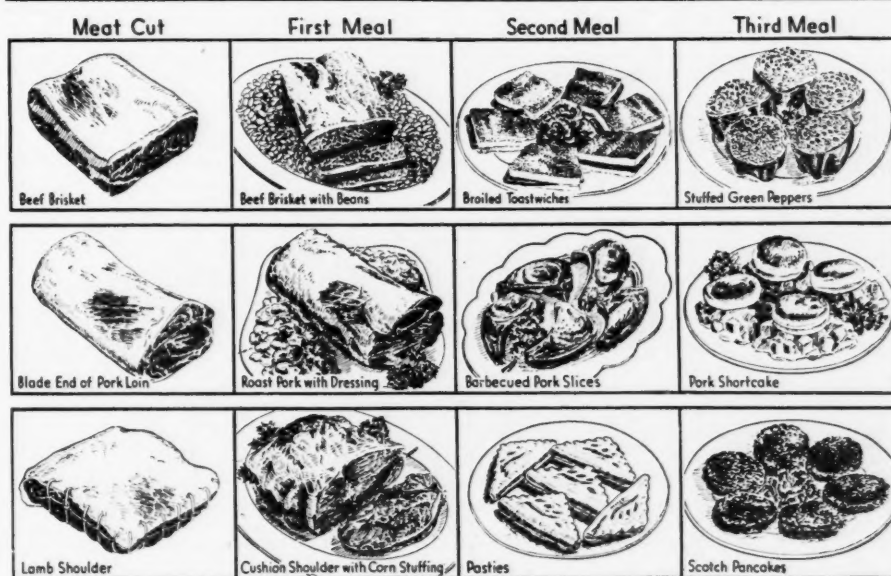
Interim Program Required

If, when the war-time problems began to affect the meat and livestock industry, it had been recognized that supply and demand must be kept in balance, and if the problem had been approached from this point of view, we would not have today some of the regulations that are in effect. However, these orders and these regulations do exist and their dislocating effects cannot be ignored, nor can they be instantly overcome.

It is on account of some of these regulations that there is a real and vital question whether our industry, particularly certain elements, can withstand the existing financial hardships during

(Continued on Page 21)

HOW TO MAKE YOUR MEAT GO FURTHER



The above suggestions are part of the National Live Stock and Meat Board's nation-wide educational meat program, emphasizing the place of meat in the diet by showing housewives how to make meat go further by preparing it in various ways. Shown here are three tempting meat dishes made from a beef brisket, three from a blade end of pork loin, and three from a lamb shoulder.

ANSWERING WARTIME QUERIES ON PRODUCTION

By C. A. CONNAUGHTON

HOW CAN I CONTINUE TO PRODUCE livestock in the face of all the limitations imposed by the war? Whom should I see to find out how these new regulations apply to my livestock business? Where should I go to get some assistance with my production problems caused by these wartime regulations? Whom do I see about building a new barn, getting a new truck, arranging for short-time credit, finding some labor, buying new farm machinery? Why doesn't the government centralize the administration of wartime regulations in one place?

These are typical questions on the tongue of every livestock man. He is ready and willing to produce. He knows how under peacetime conditions. In many cases, however, he doesn't know the way the wartime regulations influence his operation or who within his reach can inform him. He wants information and he wants one single point of contact with the originator of these regulations—the government.

Since Claude Wickard was designated "food administrator" on December 5, 1942, the Department of Agriculture is now the focal point of food production and distribution for the nation. This department is now the liaison between the livestock industry and other departments of the federal government where production and distribution are concerned. Secretary of Agriculture Wickard is the stockman's governmental representative in Washington—he will consider the problems of the industry and secure the answers. All know, however, that the Secretary of Agriculture cannot review personally every man's problems. He knows this himself. And so for the convenience of food producers and distributors and to aid the war effort to the utmost, he has established a local contact in every important food producing county in the nation. This local representation of the Department of Agriculture is known as the USDA War Board, and its function is to serve the producer and provide the federal assistance needed to attain production goals.

These USDA War Boards, which, incidentally, were organized long before Wickard was named food administrator, are the farmer's and stockman's contact with the government on production problems and they should be used as such. Specifically, then, what are some of the things these boards can do to help the producer?

Permits for New Building Construction

A War Production Board order has been in operation for some time which,

for any ranch in any one year, restricts all new residential construction to jobs costing less than \$200 and other construction to projects costing less than \$1,000. If construction costing more than these amounts is necessary to production, a special permit can be obtained by applying through the local County USDA War Board.

To follow this procedure, an application, together with advice for completing it, should be obtained from the County War Board. When the application is completed it should be returned to this board, which in turn approves or disapproves it according to merit. If approved, it reaches the WPB, which considers all pertinent factors, including the County War Board's recommendations, and either issues or rejects the permit.

All applications for ranch construction must be submitted first to the local County USDA War Board.

Purchase of New Trucks

All new trucks, including pick-ups, are frozen in the hands of manufacturers, distributors, and dealers, and can be released only on a certificate of purchase issued by the Office of Defense Transportation. If a new truck is essential to ranch operation, a certificate can be applied for through the County USDA War Board.

The procedure requires that any application for a new truck to be used in food production must be submitted to the transportation committee of the County War Board. This committee makes its recommendations on the application according to merit. Final action on the application is taken by ODT after due consideration of the County War Board recommendations.

In every case, the first step in applying for a new truck should be to contact the local County USDA War Board.

Purchase of Farm Machinery

Some time ago most farm machinery was frozen in the hands of dealers. Since then a mechanism for releasing this machinery to qualified producers on certificate of purchase has been perfected. The procedure requires that any producer needing machinery covered by the restriction order must make application to the farm machinery rationing committee of the County War Board. If the request is granted, a certificate of purchase is issued which authorizes the dealer, without any further approval, to release the equipment desired.

To obtain new farm machinery, therefore, contact the County USDA War Board and make application.

Appeal on Gasoline Allowance for Trucks

When certificates of war necessity for operation of farm and ranch trucks were issued, it was recognized by ODT that certain inequalities existed. In order to handle these difficulties as effectively as possible, a procedure was established wherein any producer could appeal his gasoline allowance to the transportation committee of the County USDA War Board. This committee could offer the appellant temporary relief and present the case for final approval to ODT.

Undoubtedly all urgent appeals under this procedure have already been made, but if any producer should encounter difficulty with the gasoline allowance for his trucks in the future, he should present his case to the local County USDA War Board.

Securing Short-Term Credit

In order to provide adequate credit as aid to production, the County USDA War Boards were authorized in January to accept applications for loans. This credit facility is primarily to take care of producer needs for rather small amounts of money for short periods. Sums up to \$2,500 can be loaned directly by county approval and up to \$10,000 after review of the application by the next higher administrative level. Loans are not to exceed one year but are subject to renewal. The interest rate is 5 per cent.

This service is not to supplant or destroy established credit sources but, instead, it is designed to serve as a supplemental program and to place this production tool at the immediate disposal of the County War Board.

If a new source of credit is needed to aid production, contact the local County USDA War Board.

Securing Labor

In late January all responsibility for recruiting and placing agricultural labor was transferred from the War Manpower Commission to the Department of Agriculture. Immediately the Department of Agriculture began to take action designed to aid and supplement the programs previously in operation. Very shortly, these new plans will be crystallized and definite procedures will be developed and operating. Undoubtedly, all the labor problems of the livestock industry will not be immediately solved under this new organization but strides forward will be made.

Without knowing positively the trend of future events, therefore, it is safe to recommend that labor problems should be presented to local County USDA War Boards and assistance requested in providing solutions.

Other Assistance

The above functions are only some of the many ways that local County USDA War Boards can assist livestock producers. In addition, these boards can advise and assist on any other problems of pro-

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

duction. Assistance in obtaining priorities; providing information on price ceilings and supports; and aiding in securing all kinds of critical supplies needed for production are other functions of these county boards.

Where Are These Boards?

Undoubtedly many producers are already familiar with their County USDA War Boards but, if not, they can get acquainted by contacting the office of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency (AAA) where the headquarters of the board are usually located. Most frequently these offices are at the county seat. The county agent is always on the board and can supply information. Other employees representing the various agencies of the USDA in the county are also on the board and will provide assistance or information.

As time progresses, the functions of the USDA War Boards will vary because progress causes change. But irrespective of future changes in detail, these boards will still be able to provide the general service that livestock producers need, so don't hesitate to use them.

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL NEW MEXICO MEETING

By L. F. MOLLIN

THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL convention of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association was held in Albuquerque, N. M., March 12-13, at the Hilton Hotel. Over 1,000 stockmen and their families were present.

The large attendance seemed due to a determination on the part of New Mexico stockmen to do even a bigger job of producing meat under difficulties; for the stockmen came to Albuquerque to find ways and means of overcoming shortages of labor and shortages of supplies and feeds and getting around other obstacles of production.

At an executive board meeting the evening before formal opening of the convention more than 200 applications were approved for membership, bringing the total of paid-up members to 2,118. President Tom Clayton and Secretary Horace Hening are to be congratulated for the fine growth the association has made during the past several years.

The first convention session was called to order by President Clayton Friday morning. Interesting talks were delivered by Governor Dempsey of New Mexico and Mayor Tingley, welcoming the stockmen to Albuquerque. A humorous note was injected when Mayor Tingley agreed to handle all overparking tickets for convention delegates and asked that they be sent to Rev. J. Denton Simms, of Albuquerque, who gave the invocation. This is perhaps the first time that a minister has served as a "ticket fixer." President Tom Clayton delivered

his annual report, covering in detail all the activities of the association during the past year. Capt. Burton C. Mossman, ill in an El Paso hospital, was unable to deliver the scheduled response to the welcoming address. The association sent expressions of sympathy to Capt. Mossman, one of the oldest charter members, both upon his illness and upon the report that his son, Maj. B. C. Mossman, Jr., serving with the air forces in Africa, had been killed in action.

The Friday afternoon session was devoted to a motion picture by Swift & Company entitled, "A Nation's Meat," and addresses by President Frank S. Boice of the American National Live Stock Association and Adj. Gen. Russell C. Charlton, director of the state Selective Service in New Mexico. Mr. Boice talked on inflation and the effect of price ceilings on beef production. He told of the joint committee formed in Chicago, with membership including all the outstanding agricultural associations, and of the work done on the problems confronting the industry. Mr. Boice stated that the manpower situation must be adjusted and correlated so that we may have an adequate army but not at the expense of trained men to provide the food for the armed forces and the civilian population. General Charlton discussed the new orders now being issued by the Selective Service relative to deferment of farm and ranch workers and the building up of a reserve of men now engaged in non-essential activities

who are eligible for farm and ranch work.

Friday night was highlighted by the annual steak banquet and dance, with music provided by an all-girl orchestra from Amarillo, Tex. On the Saturday morning program Huling Means, of Silver City, interestingly described his experiences on a Swift & Company beef cattle trip. Norman M. Littell, assistant attorney general, and Maj. J. R. Kelly, of the New Mexico Military Institute, were other Saturday morning speakers. In the afternoon Vern Olmstead, of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, demonstrated the manner of handling beef in army camps. He "boned out" an entire hind quarter, showing the advances over the old methods of cutting meat by saw. Col. Edward N. Wentworth, of Armour and Company, talked briefly about the new dehydrated meat being prepared for our armed forces.

The New Mexico cattlemen in their resolutions asked for OPA regulations permitting provisioning of ranches and their outlying camps with sufficient food for efficient work;

Suggested, as a help in the protein feed situation, increased cotton production, enlargement of processing facilities for soy beans, and discontinuance of use of cottonseed meal or cake as a fertilizer;

Requested the WPB to increase allotments of molasses to "this section for livestock feed;"

Urged WPB to allot raw materials for minimum ranch equipment needs.



A certificate given out by County USDA War Boards to be awarded to farm families who enlist in the big 1943 food production program. Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard said "it is a simple word of appreciation and encouragement to the fighting units of the food front."

Reaffirmed opposition to modification of the embargo against imports from countries having foot-and-mouth disease;

Endorsed the principals of the Johnson forest bill; opposed acquisition by the federal government of any lands; requested preference right of reoccupation and repurchase by original permittees or owners of lands acquired by the War Department at terms "not in excess of the money received after all taxes incident to the purchase have been paid;"

Petitioned Congress for legislation to correct in the income tax law a situation in which need for additional land for the War Department has caused conversion of ranch units and herds into cash and consequent inequitable income taxes;

Asked elimination of government subsidy payments;

Asked for slaughter quotas in areas of shortage adequate for demands;

Opposed state levy of any new taxes; opposed "prohibitive license tax on all chain stores;"

Requested necessary gasoline for use of members and employees of the Cattle Sanitary Board;

Asked increase in appropriation for control of predatory animals and rodents; asked that skilled predatory animal and rodent hunters be classed as essential workers;

Favored continued co-operation of the state with Fish and Wild Life Service;

Requested sufficient ammunition for

protection of livestock against predatory animals and for taking of big game;

Commended management and operating personnel of railroads for efficient service;

Favored the holding of the New Mexico State Fair in 1943.

E. G. Hayward, of Cimarron, was elected president for the coming year and W. R. Ferguson, Springer; Geo. A. Godfrey, Animas; R. K. Stovall, Cutter; and J. P. White, Jr., Roswell, vice-presidents. Horace H. Hening was renamed secretary-treasurer. A standing vote of thanks was given to Retiring President Tom Clayton for the outstanding job performed during his two years in office. The convention voted to return to Albuquerque for the 1944 convention.

THE KANSAS MEETING

IN RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE thirtieth annual convention of the Kansas Livestock Association held in Wichita March 10-11, members went on record as favoring deferment of agricultural workers as the only "practical solution" to the ranch labor problem and opposing establishment of ceiling prices on live animals. A committee, which included the association's president, Harry C. Robbins, and its secretary, Will J. Miller, was instructed to go to Washington and oppose the live animal ceilings.

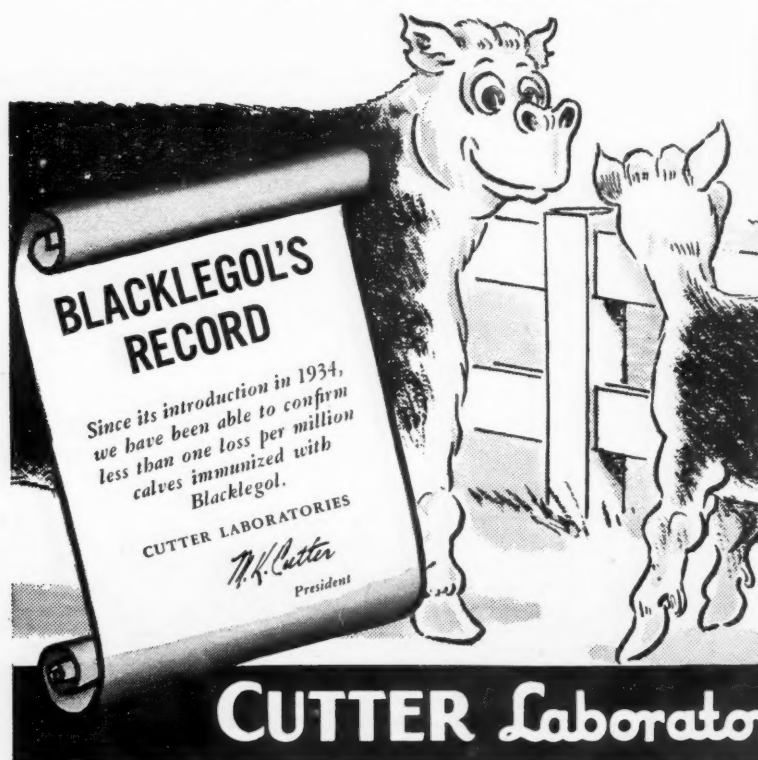
Speakers on the program, which was built around the problems brought by the war, included Lt. Col. R. F. Montgomery, assistant state director of Selective Service for Kansas, Topeka; W. R. Bartling, in charge of ODT for Kansas, Wichita; Dr. Frank A. Neff, head of War Manpower Board for Kansas, Wichita; Vern Olmstead, National Live Stock and Meat Board, Chicago; Harry B. Coffee, president of the Union Stockyards Company, Omaha; A. C. Hoffman, director of the food price division of OPA, Washington, D. C.; H. M. Conway, director of research for the National Live Stock Marketing Association, Chicago.

F. E. Mollin, executive secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, spoke to the executive committee meeting on the work of the joint livestock committee, which includes representatives of stockmen's associations, marketing organizations, and commission men, and which has been working on the ceiling question.

The Kansas stockmen asked in one of their resolutions that distribution of feed concentrates in the future be on a more equitable basis "and in line with the distribution in 1941."

Meat rationing, which it is indicated will amount to one and three-fourths pounds per capita per week, including cheese, they said, should, because of the perishable nature of the product, be started on a basis in line with available

THAT MEANS YOU TOO, JUNIOR—
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE GIVEN THAT
SHOT OF **CUTTER BLACKLEGOL!**



Never before was proper blackleg immunization of your stock more essential than it is today. Never was Cutter Blacklegol's dependability more important to you!

Blacklegol's special chemical fortification—Cutter's patented process of aluminum hydroxide adsorption—assures slow "feeding" of the vaccine into the animal's tissues. Result is, Blacklegol acts like repeated smaller doses of ordinary vaccine.

No other vaccine offers this special chemical fortification. Use Blacklegol! 10¢ a dose; less, in quantities.

CUTTER Laboratories • Berkeley, Calif. • Since 1897

supply. The allotment amounts to slightly more than 10,000,000,000 pounds—about half the estimated production for this year. The stockmen urged that speed of trucks transporting livestock be increased to the point of maximum efficiency; opposed restrictions of any form of transportation to any such distance as 200 to 300 miles as has been proposed; and asked that livestock truck drivers be considered as essential to the war effort.

A number of other resolutions were adopted. They favored:

Increased production of ranch equipment, especially barbed wire, windmills, and stock tanks;

A 50-hour work week on straight time before time-and-a-half pay starts;

Only such trade agreements as are made "with the advice and consent of Congress;"

Reduction in freight rates on packinghouse products and fresh meats from the Midwest to the Pacific Coast;

Passage of senate bills 240 and 241 in the Kansas Legislature which provide for strengthening the community sales law, make more effective the state branding law, provide machinery for cattle inspection, and set up a livestock board.

They opposed:

Lifting of the sanitary embargo against the importation of livestock or dressed meat from countries having foot-and-mouth disease;

Revival of regional Agricultural Credit

Corporations because of danger of further and unwise expansion of cattle production. This resolution did not expressly oppose, but voiced "grave concern."

Members of the resolutions committee were: Francis H. Arnold, Emporia, chairman; James G. Tomson, Wakarusa; Vic Gates, Coldwater; J. J. Moxley, Council Grove; E. A. Stephenson, Kingsdown; Orville Burtis, Manhattan; Raymond Adams, Maple Hill; Chester Davis, Holton; Charles Einsel, Greenburg; L. A. Ladd, Eur-ka; Mell C. Harper, Sitka; Willard Olander, Kansas City; John Berns, Peabody.

Officers of the association are: President, James G. Tomson, Wakarusa; vice-president, W. J. Brown, Fall River; secretary, Will J. Miller, Topeka.

ELBERT COUNTY MEET

On February 27 the annual meeting of the Elbert County Live Stock Association was held at Kiowa, Colo. The meeting started off in the morning with a public sale sponsored by the association for the purpose of raising money for its war chest, for which the association is to be complimented. At the sale, where everything from an old dressing table to a purebred bull was sold, a total of over \$2,500 was raised. Everything sold was donated, and many members who did not bring anything gave generous checks instead. The money is to

be donated to various war agencies at the discretion of the board of directors. One can easily imagine that, if every county in the United States could have such a war chest as sponsored by the Elbert County group, there would be no doubt about every war agency being adequately financed.

At noon the Kiowa Ladies' Aid served a fine dinner to over 125 stockmen and their families. In fact, the crowd was so large that some even had to wait for the "second table." At two o'clock the annual meeting convened in the court house, with President Stubbs presiding. As usual, the meeting was highlighted with the humor and wit of President Stubbs, who received exceptionally fine co-operation in this line from Ben Fraser (The Weasel) and Past President Elmer Mourning. Others who spoke briefly were: Dr. B. F. Davis, secretary of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association; Wilmer McMillen, A. C. Allen, and Dr. Floyd Cross, all of the Colorado State College staff; Kenneth Chalmers, regional director of the Soil Conservation Service; and J. J. Drinkard, commission man, Denver.

Executive Secretary F. E. Mollin delivered the feature address of the day, discussing the problems confronting the industry, with particular reference to price ceilings and production and referring to the sanitary embargo against imports from countries having foot-and-mouth disease. Two petty officers of

Quiz for Cattlemen

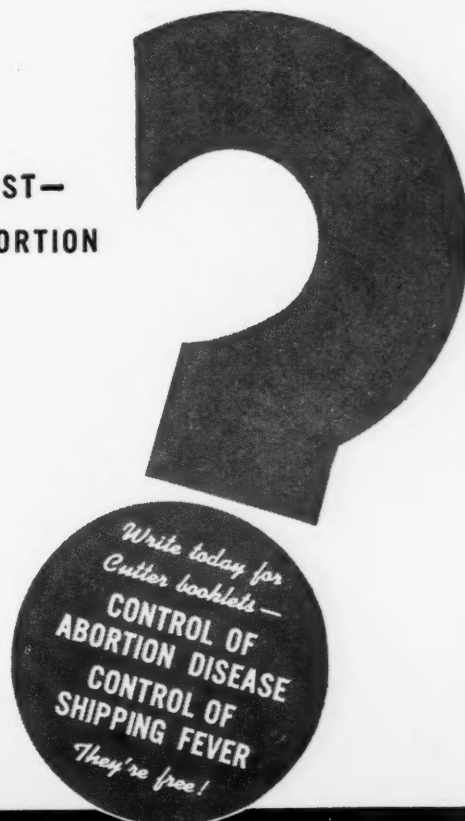
WHICH DISEASES COST AMERICA'S CATTLE-RAISERS MOST— BLACKLEG • ANTHRAX • 'SHIPPING FEVER' • ABORTION

Offhand, you might say blackleg. And, where it prevails, anthrax. They're known as "killers."

But that is exactly why they are not as costly as "shipping fever" and abortion—because vaccination against blackleg and anthrax is routine practice. And Cutter Blacklegol and Charbonol have had no small part in cutting losses from these diseases to a minimum.

Are you among those who consider "shipping fever" an act of ill-natured Providence and a few abortions just something that's bound to happen? If so, these diseases may be costing you plenty.

Institute a program of vaccination—and insure yourself against these profit-stealers! Use CUTTER PELMENAL, the double-barreled protection against "shipping fever" and pulmonary ailments—and CUTTER ABORTION VACCINE, made from the famous Strain 19, perfected by the U. S. Dept. of Animal Industry.



If your local veterinarian or drug store cannot supply you, order direct from nearest Cutter branch . . .
Los Angeles • Seattle • Ft. Worth • San Antonio • Denver • Calgary • Regina • Vancouver • Winnipeg

the Navy showed an interesting film on the Battle of Midway.

All the officers of the association were re-elected. The board of directors voted to double payment of dues to the American National Live Stock Association for 1943.

The Elbert County Live Stock Association is to be congratulated for the fine work it is doing. The crowds that attend its meetings would do credit to any large association.—L. F. MOLLIN.

FORT MORGAN MEETING

The Cattlemen's Association of Fort Morgan and Associated Counties held its annual meeting in Fort Morgan on February 25. The meeting had the largest attendance of any since the association was organized a few years ago. Over 100 stockmen from the territory served by the association attended the meeting. Many of them attended for the first time.

A meeting of the board of directors was held in the afternoon. Every director was present. In the evening a banquet was held at the Guild Hall and a regular "cowboy" feed was served. To show the real spirit existing in the association, the story must be told that some of the directors and members actually cooked the meal. They were unable to find any organization to take on the responsibility of the banquet, and so put on aprons. They really did a grand job.

At the final meeting, Vice-President Conrad Schaefer presided in the absence of President J. A. Fries who flew to California to attend the wedding of his son. Bob Hogsett, secretary-treasurer, gave his annual report. Full credit must be given to him for the splendid job he has done in increasing the membership of the association and in his activity during the past two or three years in behalf

of the industry. Mr. Hogsett stressed particularly the work of the association in combating rustling. He told of several interesting cases in which the association had taken part.

Among other speakers were John T. Caine III, representing the Chicago Union Stock Yard Company, Dr. R. M. Gow, state veterinarian of Colorado, and Executive Secretary F. E. Mollin of the American National Live Stock Association, who spoke about price ceilings and production and discussed the work of the American National. An open discussion on major subjects followed.

The Fort Morgan association is affiliated with the American National Live Stock Association and at the meeting the directors voted to double their payment of dues for the year 1943. All officers and directors were re-elected for the coming year.—L. F. MOLLIN.

Association Notes

ARIZONA OFFICERS

Thomas E. Heady, Patagonia, Ariz., was re-elected president of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association at its thirtieth annual convention in Phoenix in early February. All other officers were kept in office: Norman Fain, Prescott, first vice-president; Fred J. Fritz, Clifton, second vice-president; Ralph Cowan, McNeal, treasurer; and Mrs. J. M. Keith, secretary. . . . Officers of the Junior Arizona Cattle Growers' Association are: President, Betty Lo Aiken, Chino Valley; vice-president, Bill Cowan, McNeal; secretary, Johnnie Jones, Holbrook; treasurer, Mary Stark, Clifton; members of advisory board, Harve Randall for the northern district, Mrs. Rachel Koontz for the central district, and Mrs. Ralph Cowan for the southern district.

WOOLMEN BUY BONDS

Members of the Colorado Wool Growers' Association, numbering about 3,500, have pledged themselves to invest 10 per cent of their gross income from 1,500,000 sheep in war bonds, according to Mike Noonan, past president of the organization. The wool clip is expected to be nearly 10,000,000 pounds for a value of approximately \$4,000,000. Lambs are expected to bring in another \$12,000,000, with the Treasury checking in with a sale of about \$1,600,000 worth of war bonds.

ASKS MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PRICES

Charles W. Johnson, secretary of National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation, has proposed that the government set minimum and maximum prices on milk, between which "economic forces be allowed free play." He said such a plan would be effective in controlling runaway prices and helpful in produc-

ing milk. "If milk and its products are an essential war industry, minimum guaranteed prices should be assured by the government at points sufficiently high to maintain present production. If increased production is required, flexible ceilings should be established at points sufficiently high to assure some measure of this increase."

BENT-PROWERS MEETING

Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association members at a meeting held in Las Animas, Colorado, re-elected their officers as follows: President, Wilkie Ham, Lamar; vice-president, Henry Bledsoe, Cheraw; secretary, Neil Davidson, Las Animas; assistant secretary, C. A. Woods, Eads; treasurer, William J. A. Scott, Las Animas; assistant treasurer, Henry Manifer, Las Animas. Speakers included State Senator A. C. Johnson; Earl Brown, Denver, brand commissioner of the State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners; Dr. R. M. Gow, Denver, state veterinarian; Billy Goss, Pueblo, member of the State Board of Agriculture; Dr. E. Heiny, Denver, Bureau of Animal Industry; W. E. Connell, Ft. Collins, Colorado State College; and the following representatives of the Southern Colorado Livestock Association: Archie Hale, Frank Parsons, Harry Biene, and Mr. Cummings. The Bent-Prowers organization is one of the oldest in the West, founded five years after the close of the Civil War.

LEVY FOR INSPECTION

The proposal of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association that a tax not to exceed three mills be levied on cattle for the purpose of maintaining market inspection was approved in a resolution passed by the Wyoming-Montana Live Stock Protective Association and the Three Forks Cattle and Horse Association, the latter organization suggesting that a system of inspection should be made to cover cattle and horses shipped by truck as well as rail, and that the state associations' inspection set-up be made more comprehensive.

CENTRAL ARIZONA MEETING

At the annual business meeting of the Central Arizona Cattle Feeders' Association, held recently in Phoenix, E. Ray Cowden was re-elected chairman of the executive committee; Harvey Platt, vice-chairman; and E. W. Hudson, George Taylor, H. M. Welborn, Kenneth W. Houston, and J. R. Beloit, executive committeemen. Speakers at the meeting included Dr. Paul S. Burgess, dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Arizona; E. B. Stanley, of the University of Arizona and secretary of the Arizona Hereford Association; Charles E. Blaine, traffic expert, Phoenix, Ariz.; Keith Taylor, Phoenix; and O. M. Las-

GOVERNMENT NEEDS MARKETING SPECIALISTS

The federal government needs agricultural marketing specialists in many commodities, both here and in foreign countries. Salaries range as high as \$6,500 a year, with most of the appointments paying from \$2,000 to \$3,800 a year. Persons are needed to work with marketing problems in such fields as cotton, dairy products, fats and oils, feeds, fruits and vegetables, grains, livestock, eggs, poultry, tobacco, wool, meats, etc. Applicants for the \$2,000 jobs must have had three years of experience, college training, or a combination of the two in marketing agricultural products. There are no age limits and no written examination will be given. Apply to first and second-class post offices or to the Civil Service Commission.



Who

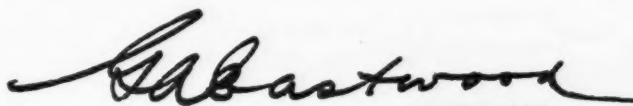
Determines Prices?

The skill and knowledge of commission men and packer buyers are factors in determining the prices at which livestock change ownership—not because they determine the actual value of the livestock but because in their trading they reach an agreement regarding the *quality* possessed by the animals and, consequently, the *grade* into which they fall.

In normal times, the value of the different grades is determined by the consuming public. Housewives fix a “ceiling” which is entirely independent of such factors as production cost and trading procedure. At present “ceilings” are fixed by government authorities.

The trading that goes on in the “yards” is an effort on the part of the salesmen to get full value or the “ceiling,” and an effort on the part of the buyers to get livestock at a price which will not exceed the value as determined by consumers.

Competent salesmen and buyers whose training enables them to “look” under the hide and accurately appraise the quality and quantity of meat there have little difficulty in getting together on a price because each knows it is the consuming public which determines the value.


PRESIDENT

ARMOUR and COMPANY

sen, Phoenix. Mrs. Ottis Irene Sims is executive secretary of the association. The association went on record as opposing all forms of federal subsidy or incentive payments, suggesting instead that a guaranteed fair market price will do much more to stimulate production. The association was organized nine years ago to promote orderly marketing by furnishing its members with complete market information.

HIGHLAND HEREFORD OFFICERS

Hayes Mitchell, Marfa, Texas, is the new president of the Highland Hereford Breeders' Association. Espy Miller is vice-president and W. L. Black is temporary secretary. Directors are Robert Everett, Otis Kimball, D. O. Medley, W. D. Reynolds, Perry Cartwright, B. H. Davis, R. B. Mitchell, Lee Harrington, and Oscar Roberts. Tyrrel Smith, Marfa, was the retiring president.

SETS BIG REWARD

Officers of the Merced-Mariposa Cattlemen's Association (California) took steps at a recent meeting to set up a reward of \$1,000 for the arrest and conviction

of any person stealing cattle. The stockmen passed a resolution protesting against ceiling prices on cattle. The meeting, held at Merced, was reported to be the largest cattlemen's meeting ever held in Merced County.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICERS

At the recent annual meeting of the Humboldt County Stockmen's Association (California), Dr. T. B. Ricks was elected president and Fred Christie, vice-president. The directors are: Joseph Russ, Jr., R. H. Smith, W. O. Perry, B. A. Snodgrass, W. J. Dinsmore, D. H. Prior, A. E. Lyons, Thomas Cosgrove, G. Timmons, Hittie Robinson, and George Minor. Ira Tooby was named as the association's representative on the board of directors of the California Cattlemen's Association.

SHORTHORN FIELDMAN

C. D. Swaffar, former livestock development agent for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, becomes a field representative of the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association. Swaffar will serve the interests of Shorthorns and Polled Shorthorns in the West and

Southwest and plans to live in or near Kansas City. He was born and received his education in Oklahoma, where he majored in animal husbandry and served on the livestock judging team in 1937.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

CHARLES E. BLAINE AND Calvin L. Blaine, traffic managers of the American National Live Stock Association, reported that their department now has nine proceedings pending before the Interstate Commerce Commission in which stockmen were interested. Ten cases were disposed of during 1942. The report—the fourteenth made to members and officers of the association—was presented at the Denver convention in January.

Formal cases disposed of during the year covered by the report included:

The *Southern Livestock Cases*, which involved rates on fat stock and feeders and raised the question of minimum rates, bedding, market and transit privileges, and other matters incidental to transportation of livestock by rail.

Several cases, of concern to the industry, involved application for authority to transport meats by motor vehicle.

I. & S. 5087, Transit Livestock in Western District, in which certain railroads sought to cancel sale in transit of livestock at certain points. The decision approved the railroads' schedules.

Ex parte No. 148, Increased Rates and Charges, 1942, in which the rails asked for an increase of 10 per cent in freight rates, got a 3 to 6 per cent increase, with livestock rates limited to a 3 per cent increase. Recently producers joined in a Department of Agriculture and OPA petition for modification of the order to eliminate increases made.

A.C.C. No. 8590-R-537, Increase in Arizona Rates, Fares and Charges, which involved rate increases in Arizona. The decision granted increases but exempted livestock.

I. & S. No. 5019, Unloading Livestock at No. Pacific Coast Points, and *I. & S. No. 5117, Unloading Livestock at Points on G.N., M.P., and Soo Lines*, in which the railroads' tariffs sought increases in charges for unloading livestock at certain points. The railroads' request, after producers' defense had been fully prepared, was in effect withdrawn.

Cases Pending

Included under the heading of cases pending are the following:

I. & S. No. 5121, Two-for-One Rule on Livestock in South, involving a request for a rule that "Where rates and/or minimum weights are published on hogs, calves, sheep, lambs, and goats in double-deck cars different from single-deck rates and minima, and double-deck cars are ordered by the shipper, and the carrier is unable to furnish all or a part of the cars ordered, single-deck

LIST OF ALPHABETICAL AGENCIES

AAA—Agricultural Adjustment Administration.
AMA—Agricultural Marketing Administration.
ARA—Agricultural Research Administration.
BAE—Bureau of Agricultural Economics.
BAI—Bureau of Animal Industry.
BEW—Board of Economic Warfare.
CAA—Civil Aeronautics Administration.
CAB—Civil Aeronautics Board.
DHC—Defense Homes Corporation.
DPC—Defense Plant Corporation.
DSC—Defense Supplies Corporation.
EHFA—Electric Home and Farm Authority.
FBI—Federal Bureau of Investigation.
FCA—Farm Credit Administration.
FCC—Federal Communications Commission.
FCIC—Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.
FDA—Food Distribution Administration.
FDA—Food and Drug Administration.
FDIC—Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.
FHA—Federal Housing Administration.
FLA—Federal Loan Agency.
FPA—Food Production Administration.
FPC—Federal Power Commission.
FSA—Farm Security Administration or Federal Security Agency.
FTC—Federal Trade Commission.
FWA—Federal Works Agency.
GAO—General Accounting Office.
GPO—Government Printing Office.
HOLC—Home Owners' Loan Corporation.
ICC—Interstate Commerce Commission.
MRC—Metals Reserve Company.

NLRB—National Labor Relations Board.
NYA—National Youth Administration.
OC—Office of Censorship.
OCD—Office of Civilian Defense.
ODT—Office of Defense Transportation.
OEM—Office for Emergency Management.
OGR—Office of Government Reports.
OIAA—Office of Inter-American Affairs.
OLLA—Office of Lend-Lease Administration.
OPA—Office of Price Administration.
OSRD—Office of Scientific Research and Development.
OWI—Office of War Information.
PBA—Public Buildings Administration.
PRA—Public Roads Administration.
PWA—Public Works Administration.
REA—Rural Electrification Administration.
RFC—Reconstruction Finance Corporation.
RRC—Rubber Reserve Company.
SCS—Soil Conservation Service.
SEC—Securities and Exchange Commission.
SMA—Surplus Marketing Administration.
SSB—Social Security Board.
SSS—Selective Service System.
TVA—Tennessee Valley Authority.
USES—United States Employment Service.
USHA—United States Housing Authority.
USIS—United States Information Service.
USMC—United States Marine Corps.
WLB—War Labor Board.
WMC—War Manpower Commission.
WPB—War Production Board.
WRA—War Relocation Authority.

cars will be supplied in lieu of such double-deck cars as the carrier is unable to furnish at points where there are facilities for loading double-deck cars . . ."

In this case, the producers joined a protest filed by Armour and Company. The commission ordered cancellation of the rule.

I. & S. No. 5129, Livestock Loading and Unloading Charges at Chicago, in which the Chicago yards company seeks a \$3 increase per car for loading and unloading. Protests against the raise have been filed. Postponed hearings have not been set.

No. 28855, Increase in Montana Freight Rates and Charges, which is an investigation into increases sought, including increases in livestock rates. The Montana Stock Growers' Association and the Montana Wool Growers' Association were represented in this case in opposition to any increases. Decision has not yet been rendered.

A number of motor carrier cases involving applications for authority to transport meat by motor vehicle, change of routes, etc., in which stockmen are interested.

Among formal cases proposed by other parties is included:

Westbound Rates on Meats, in which the producers continue to oppose reduction in rail rates from the territory Denver and east to the Pacific coast and intermediate points.

Offers Claim Service

The traffic experts remind members of the association that they are always glad to perform the work of taking up claims for overcharges and loss and damage for members, which is a service that has been provided by the association for some years. They report that tariffs "are in the most chaotic condition we have experienced in the last 35 years." The department prosecuted many claims and is convinced that substantial amounts could have been recovered for other members if their accounts had been properly audited.

The report reviews the many ODT orders issued in the latter half of 1942. Of particular interest is the amendment to order No. 18, which does away with the necessity of shippers showing "certificate of compliance" on shipments of livestock. The "certificate of compliance" deals with manner of loading, etc.

Under a section headed "Violation of Transportation Laws," it is reported that many railroads, truck lines, and their patrons have been found guilty and fined for violation of transportation laws, and the suggestion is made that members "keep their records clear by strictly complying with the law." In a more recent report from the traffic manager's office, this information is given:

"Among the more than 200 investigations of alleged violations of the transportation laws investigated by the com-

mission's staff of attorneys and special agents during the year ended October 31, 1942, the following is of particular interest to livestock producers and shippers:

"Another investigation conducted during the year produced evidence which led to a civil suit against a carrier for the penalties described for violations of our service orders. The carrier, although having available double-deck cars for the transportation of livestock, nevertheless furnished to a large shipper single-deck cars in lieu of double-deck cars alleged to have been

ordered by the shipper, on the pretext that double-deck cars were not available. This action was prohibited by our Service Order No. 71, which provides, among other things, that single-deck cars may be furnished in lieu of double-deck cars ordered only where the latter are not available. The suit was disposed of by defendant's confession of judgment in the sum of \$2,700."

"As pointed out in our various annual and special reports, strict compliance with the law, including tariff provisions on file with the various regulatory bodies, is essential."



SECRET WEAPON

... GUARD IT WELL

America's calf crop this year is a powerful weapon that can be used effectively against our enemies. To serve as fighting energy for America and her allies, however... every calf must be raised to marketable size... and delivered there in prime condition.

To help guard against losses from Blackleg... choose Globe Blackleg Bacterin, Whole Culture (Alum Treated)... the sterling quality bacterin in the silver box. One dose, injected into normal calves under average field conditions produces a satisfactory degree of lasting protection against Blackleg infection. Vaccinate early... help produce more meat... the fighting food!

ONLY TEN CENTS A DOSE!

in 5, 10, 25 and 50-dose bottles.



GLOBE LABORATORIES

FORT WORTH, TEXAS
LOS ANGELES — DENVER — KANSAS CITY — MEMPHIS — LITTLE ROCK

AGREES IN LIMITATIONS IN PROTEIN IN FEEDS

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FEED industry and the Department of Agriculture have agreed upon a program to limit protein content of high-protein feeds. The program is designed to extend supplies of proteins to meet heavy demands in the campaign for more live-stock, dairy, poultry, and egg production.

In a joint statement on the subject, Claude R. Wickard, secretary of agriculture, and J. A. McConnell, chairman of the Feed Industry Council, said that the program will be based on voluntary action on the part of the feed dealers, feed manufacturers, and feed users.

The Department of Agriculture will explain the plan to farmers through the war boards and agricultural colleges and help in promoting production of more proteins on the farms by encouraging farmers to grow more soybeans, improve their pastures, and follow other sound practices. The feed industry, for its part, will urge feed manufacturers and distributors to conserve proteins and help farmers in the proper use of feeds. And the producers, the officials said, have an even more important part to play in co-operating in the program, since they are the ones who use the feed.

Use of animal protein, from such sources as meat scrap, fish meal, tankage liver meal, dried milk products, is to be restricted to 2 per cent in chick starter and broiler mash; 2½ per cent in growing and laying mash that are fed with grain; 4½ per cent in breeder mash; 2 per cent in sow and pig feeds that are to be fed straight; 3 per cent in calf starters that are to be fed straight.

Vegetable proteins will be conserved

by limiting the protein content of dairy feeds to a maximum of 18 per cent, with 12 per cent to 16 per cent feeds recommended for feeding with good legume hay.

"All protein ingredients, whether animal, marine, or vegetable, should be mixed with other feedstuffs to obtain maximum results and more complete utilization of the protein and should not be fed separately."

SAVE MEAT, LEATHER

LAST YEAR CATTLE GRUBS caused the condemnation under federal inspection of approximately 11,750,000 pounds of beef trimmed from cuts, ribs, and loins—meat that might have supplied a city of 100,000 persons for a year. In 1941 about 5,750,000 hides had a cut-out loss from grubs—hides that could have kept shoes on 9,000,000 marching men for a year.

This waste can be stopped. Here are ways of doing it:

In the spray method, a power sprayer is used to apply a paste consisting of five pounds of either cube or derris powder and 10 pounds of wettable sulphur, with water added to make 100 gallons. This is a good method for range animals.

The wash method requires a paste consisting of 12 ounces of either cube or derris powder and 6 ounces of wettable sulphur, with water added to make one gallon. Two ounces of soap may be substituted for the wettable sulphur. Apply

PICTURES IN THIS ISSUE: Cover, Chas. J. Belden, Pitchfork, Wyo.; page 9, National Live Stock and Meat Board; page 11, Department of Agriculture; page 18, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine; page 29, Smith, Kansas City, Mo.

with sprinkling jar and brush in thoroughly.

In the extraction method, used when only a few cattle are involved, the grubs are squeezed out by hand.

Injection may be used for average sized herds. Inject benzol, commercial grade, undiluted, into each grub hole with an oil can.

In the dusting method, equal parts, by weight, of either cube or derris powder and wettable sulphur are thoroughly mixed and applied with a shaker can. The method is not satisfactory where coat of hair is long and thick.

The use of an automatic dipping and currying machine is another method employed, as well as immersion in dipping vats.

CALENDAR

APRIL—

2-3—Utah Cattle and Horse Growers' Ass'n convention, Salt Lake City.

7—Midwest Hereford Ass'n sale, Holyoke, Colo.

14—Louisiana Cattlemen's Ass'n convention, Baton Rouge.

MAY—

8-9—Idaho Cattlemen's Ass'n convention, Boise.

14-15—Washington Cattlemen's Ass'n convention, Asotin.

20-22—Cattle and Horse Raisers' Ass'n of Oregon convention, Burns.

27-29—Montana Stock Growers' Ass'n convention, Billings, Mont.

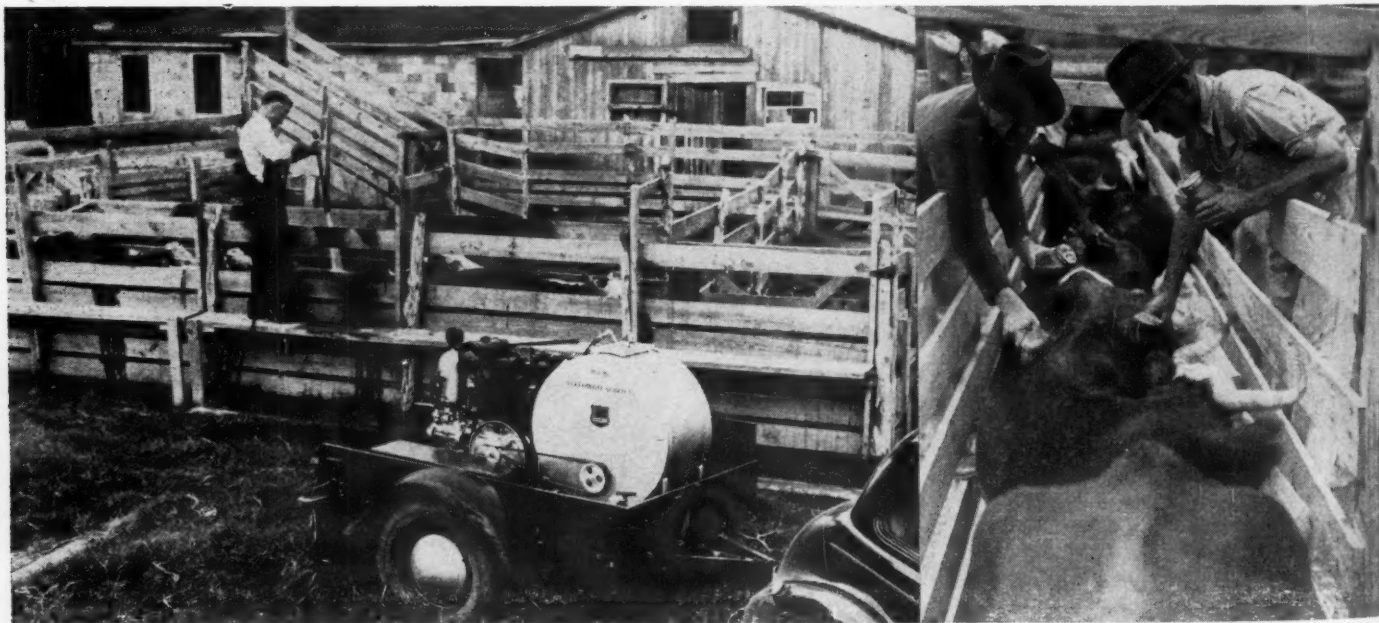
JUNE—

1-3—Wyoming Stock Growers' Ass'n convention, Lusk.

2—North Central Aberdeen-Angus show and sale, Valley City, N. D.

JULY—

15-17—Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Ass'n convention, Gunnison.



Spraying cube or derris powder and wettable sulphur to oust grubs. Left: Wash method—sprinkling jar, brush, and elbow grease.

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Our Meat Supply

IT IS A DIFFICULT MATTER FOR the consuming public to grasp the true situation that exists today with regard to meat. Even those connected with the industry who try to keep informed on what is going on find themselves confused about it. The very same press and radio that carry the story of the greatest supply of livestock ever inventoried in this country also carry the news of city after city reporting alarming meat shortages.

The entire question is, "What is wrong?" and no one seems to know the answer for sure. Here are some of the answers given, which may or may not tell the whole story:

1. Beyond question the pig crop for 1942 was greatly overestimated.
2. In a fresh attempt to increase pig production, an unusually large number of gilts were held back for breeding last fall.
3. Beef production has been disappointingly small in view of the fact that we have the largest number of cattle ever reported in the country, that feed crops last year were generous, holdovers large, and the production of concentrates well above the previous year.
4. The poor distribution of the available products due to shifting populations as war plants were developed and the so-called "hinterland" was stripped of all surplus man power for these plants and the Army.
5. The greatly expanded needs of the armed forces.
6. Possibly larger purchases for lend-lease than were justified in view of the fact that supplies did not come up to expectation.
7. The diversion from normal supply

channels of an unknown quantity of meat to the so-called "black markets." This diversion has been substantial in certain areas where war plant populations have been sharply increased. Of course it has reduced the pressure on public markets to a comparable extent.

8. And not least, by any means, is the tremendous expansion in the purchasing power of civilians.

It is beginning to be apparent that many of the plans made by the framers of our wartime economy are not being successfully carried out. Perhaps the fundamental error in the situation is that OPA started in with almost a single determination; namely, to control price. That price control would be of little value without increased production to meet the increased demands seems to have been almost wholly forgotten.

In the case of beef, the situation is particularly unfortunate. Representatives of the American National Live Stock Association made particular efforts early last summer to warn the Office of Price Administration, Secretary of Agriculture Wickard, Administrator Hendrickson of the Agricultural Marketing Administration, General Hardigg and Colonel Logan of the Army Supply Service, and the food requirements committee of the War Production Board that the policies proposed would inevitably result in decreased beef supply during the winter and spring of 1942-43. Our warnings were unheeded. Reliance was placed on the mere fact of large cattle numbers and large feed supplies; but these have to be put together to make beef, and it takes confidence and planning on the part of the feeders to do that job.

Now that the full result of these shortcomings in planning are apparent, and when steps should be immediately taken to correct the situation, unfortunately we find history repeating itself, and OPA, just as it is getting set to ration meat, takes the unwise step of again promoting price ceilings on live animals. Again, price is placed ahead of production despite the urgent need of increased production.

We have reached the stage where even OPA can no longer afford to experiment with the food supply of the nation. While there need be no alarm now for fear of famine, nevertheless it is an accepted fact that the ambitious program of Secretary of Agriculture Wickard for greatly increased food production this year cannot be realized. Even if the gods were willing and the weatherman performed in ideal fashion, the shortages of man power, machinery, and supplies are too great to be overcome. If we have only a fair growing season, we will begin to feel the pinch, and, if anything in the shape of drought of serious proportion should develop, we will have cause for grave concern.

Under the circumstances, it seems high time that the planners get together and work out a program that puts produc-

tion ahead of everything else. There is no safety in any other course. Livestock producers generally are not complaining about price levels. They are concerned with the uncertainties of trying to operate under increasing handicaps. Most of all, they are concerned over having the threat of livestock ceilings hanging over their heads. It would disrupt the entire marketing system and, in the opinion of competent producers of beef, pork, and lamb, would inevitably decrease rather than increase production.

After all, the meat supply is the most important item in the food larder. Now is the time to take the necessary steps to insure the greatest possible production in the coming year. The producers have done their part—it's up to OPA to clear the way for finishing the job.

Planning the Hard Way

THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING tendency on the part of the administrative bureaus in Washington to impose drastic restrictions on the public and to proceed from there on the trial and error method, mostly error. As examples might be cited various regulations issued by the Office of Defense Transportation, seriously restricting the operation of trucks, only to draw such a storm of protest from the country that the orders had to be suspended two or three times and amended in many of their important details before they went into effect. Then came the historic Order No. 21, requiring certificates of war necessity for all truck operators. A staff of 2,000 or 3,000 clerks was installed in Detroit. All applications were to be mailed there, and these clerks, wholly unfamiliar with the operations of any of the applicants, were to assume the solemn duty of deciding how many gallons of gas each applicant would require in his next year's operations. Halfway through, the thing broke down because the gasoline allowances were so utterly out of line with the needs of the applicants that the farce of determination by an uninformed clerk at a far distant point could no longer be defended.

Then the ODT did the proper thing. The question of determination was placed upon the local level and the power given to local boards to determine the gasoline allowance in accordance with the needs of the applicant.

In the rationing division of OPA recently, a similar error has been made. Before the canned goods rationing program was a month old, changes had to be made in the point value of several of the commodities rationed. People just simply weren't buying high-point goods. Reductions were made in perishables such as raisins, prunes, figs, etc., and in products such as dried beans. Further reductions are being proposed in the latter item, a staple food for many of our Spanish-American citizens. Also, modifications have been made with re-

spect to supplying ranchers, campers, and others who have long distances to market and who do not have any supply of food available except canned or dried foods. Here, too, it has been found necessary to grant the authority to the local boards to determine the extent of modification from the original order necessary to meet the individual requirements of each applicant.

It is to be hoped that the same error will not be made when meat rationing starts in the latter part of March. It should be obvious by this time that the public resents regulations more drastic than necessary, and it would be far better to tighten up gradually as the need is clearly demonstrated and after the system is well along in operation than to proceed in the fashion described above. In other words, if rationing we must have—and we are not here registering a complaint against such systems where necessary—plan it in the easy, practical manner rather than the hard impractical way. Also, do it at the local level where the administrators know the conditions, know the people with whom they are dealing, and can intelligently apply the necessary regulations. The more authority that can be localized, the greater the co-operation will be, and the better the results.

THE FEED SITUATION

The situation in feed concentrates is a bit easier now, as more soybeans are being shipped to southern mills for crushing. The product is divided three ways: A small part is being held by the Commodity Credit Corporation for distribution in areas of acute need, and the remainder is split 50-50, half going back to the states from which the beans came and half being sold locally by the mills. If drought comes to an area, it is believed that relief can be had from the Commodity Credit supply. The mills themselves should have more product available for sale as they see fit.

LAND SWINDLE

The sheriff of Lincoln County, Montana, is looking for a man who sold in Colorado a piece of Montana land represented as his own through a forged deed. The swindler, a well-dressed six-footer, a fluent talker, about 55 and weighing over 200 pounds, told his victim that he was trading for the Montana land if he could sell it promptly. He produced the forged deed, received payment, and disappeared. Evidently he had a confederate in Colorado who forged the name of the real owner of the land. He displayed letters showing good morals and responsibility.

WASHINGTON

Washington Notes

LIVESTOCK PRODUCER REPRESENTATIVES left Washington in late March when it appeared there was no immediate likelihood of ceilings on meat animals. They had rushed there when it was reported about the middle of the month that ceilings on live hogs were to be set. But not only a ceiling on hogs but on cattle and sheep, too, was in the minds of OPA officials. The whole subject of live-animal ceilings was opened up.

On insistence of producer and other groups, the OPA decided to make a fair trial of rationing by the point system and give some other new programs a chance to work out. These programs are: The licensing of slaughterers; the setting aside for government of as much meat as needed (to be administered so that the government will buy heavily when production is heavy); the licensing of livestock dealers and handlers, with the request that records be kept of purchases and sales (ranchers do not need permits, but should keep the records); the issuance of dollars-and-cents retail prices on beef on a basis similar to that now applying to pork; and the stricter enforcement of orders already in effect. If these work out and reduce black market operations, it is expected that this combination of programs will be followed.

The producer groups who went to Washington in this instance represented a vast number of livestock growers the country over. President Frank S. Boice and Executive Secretary F. E. Mollin of the American National Live Stock Association spoke up for cattle growers. Several state livestock organizations were represented. Marketing interests were represented. The packing industry was strongly represented.

The packers, through the American Meat Institute, submitted a plan to government officials (published in full elsewhere in this issue) that does not differ so very much from the programs outlined above. It does, however, recommend the doing away with price ceilings as soon as it can be demonstrated that meat rationing and skillful buying of meat for government can so keep supply and demand in balance as to regulate the price.

Rationing

Rationing is probably the most important part of these try-out programs to straighten out the critical meat situation. With it producers and everyone else hope will come better distribution of meat and a consequent breaking up of the black markets. Sixteen points' worth of meat and fats and oils per week should be able to do this. The sixteen points mean approximately two pounds per week, depending upon the cuts of

meat purchased, the point value changing according to available supply. It is a rather adequate amount when it is remembered that in Great Britain only about half that poundage is to be had, and even less in most other countries. Fish, except canned fish, poultry, and game, and soft cheeses are not rationed. The meat rationing program includes a limitation on restaurants to 75 per cent of the meat, butter, etc., used in December of last year.

OPA has issued an order which will permit ranchers, campers, and others who do not have access to supplies of fresh vegetables the equivalent of about 1.3 pounds of canned goods per person per day. This is the maximum, and the local rationing boards have authority to handle in connection with the need shown. It is understood that where necessary a 60-day supply may be secured at one time.

Labor

"We must see that no more skilled workers leave agriculture, and we must do our best to recall some of those who have already left. We must see to it that the people who are in agriculture are using their skill and experience to the best advantage. And we must recruit and train as many new farm workers as possible." Secretary of Agriculture Wickard gave these as the things the farm man power program aims at. As to the progress made, he said, new regulations have given war boards right to request deferment for necessary farm workers in case the men or their employers have not asked for it; war boards will arrange for placing experienced farm workers who come back from city jobs; plans are being made to transport experienced people for seasonal work in areas of labor shortages.

Director Wayne H. Darrow of the Agricultural Labor Administration told radio listeners in early March that since the Tydings amendment to the Selective Service Act went into effect last November about 500,000 essential men in agriculture had been deferred and put in class 2-C or 3-C. By the end of this year more than 3,000,000 men will have been placed in the agricultural deferment classifications, he said.

Director Lewis B. Hershey of Selective Service said that the recent action of reclassifying men in 4-H should not affect release of men 38 years old and over from the armed forces to agricultural jobs.

Press releases indicate somewhat of a "back to the farm" movement of industrial workers "apparently influenced by legislation for draft deferment of agricultural workers." Such legislation was recently favored in the Senate by a vote of 51 to 24. The law would replace the Tydings amendment, which authorizes deferment but does not make it mandatory.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Miscellaneous

Secretary Wickard said that the March 19 crop report shows that farmers plan to exceed or approximate their crop production goals in the majority of instances. . . . The secretary turned wheat growers loose to grow as much as they want of wheat. He explained that there is no sudden shortage, but more wheat is being used than ever. He wants more only where it will not crowd out war crops. . . . One hundred million more bushels of wheat for feed are provided for in a measure ready for the President's signature. . . . The Senate Agriculture Committee approved a measure to include labor costs in farm price parity. . . . The House approved and sent to the Senate a conference report on a bill repealing the President's \$25,000 net salary limit order and stopping him from reducing salaries below highest levels between January 1 and September 15, 1942. . . . The Department of Agriculture reported that vaccination to prevent brucellosis of cattle "is effective in the great majority of cases." . . . Chester C. Davis has been put in Secretary Wickard's place as food administrator.

AMERICAN MEAT PACKERS' PLAN (Continued from Page 8)

the interim period and before the program we have outlined can be placed in effect. In order to preserve the industry for public service and for itself, and in order to accomplish the necessary distribution of products, we feel that, during an interim period, certain existing controls should be retained and certain interim procedures should be followed.

1. In order that American armed forces may be certain of obtaining their needed requirements, the burden of furnishing this substantial volume must be widely and equitably distributed among members of the meat packing industry.

2. During the early stages of formal

consumer rationing, it will be necessary to maintain wholesale and retail price ceilings. The attempt of the meat management program should be to bring actual prices under such control that they will not be pressing on ceilings. When the ability to do this has been demonstrated, the plan is working and price ceilings can be eliminated.

(If it is not desirable to permit prices to go below present levels for this purpose, ceilings might be somewhat raised, in which case the demonstration would consist of the ability to hold prices steady.)

3. As a necessary part of this program for bringing immediate relief, attention is called to the importance of the fact that existing price ceilings must be adjusted to put prices in their proper relationship one with another.

This involves the adjustment of prices paid for products by the government agencies so that at all times they will be relatively correct with civilian prices. This means that as long as ceilings are a limiting factor, government business must yield a return comparable to civilian business.

It of course follows that, as soon as demand and supply are again in balance and civilian prices move below the present (or possibly higher) ceilings, the price paid for government meat must change correspondingly, because the net return to the seller from each type of business must stay in balance.

It is suggested that, when the government attempts to determine the ceiling prices on any particular manufactured item, first of all a study should be made of what the cost factors are in the manufacture of the product. After getting a breakdown of all costs incurred, which among others, must include: (a) actual prices of raw materials; (b) actual cost of supplies; (c) manufacture expenses, including labor and overhead,

then this exact form should be filled in by an adequate cross-section of the industry whose cost accounting records are such as to reflect the costs involved in producing the particular type of product. Such factual information must be used as a basis for ceiling determination. Many ceiling prices that are in effect today on manufactured items would indicate that the above sound approach always was not used. Estimates and compromises are unsound, and inevitably engender inequalities. The only element in the reasonable and fair margin that might be debatable is the extent of the legitimate share of profit to be allowed for the service rendered.

4. In view of the length of time it would take under the most favorable circumstances to get this new national meat program accepted and put into operation, the board of directors of the Institute, at a meeting Tuesday of this week (March 16), adopted a resolution which says in effect:

"Necessary adjustments between hog prices and wholesale ceilings on pork products must be made, and without delay, in order that there be a reasonable margin to permit the various functions of the industry to operate. The industry's proposal will permit the industry to operate with normal competitive margins. If the plan is effectuated quickly, no other relief will be required to continue the industry in the satisfactory service of the nation and to permit the industry to live. If there is an undue delay or, if other measures do not provide the necessary relief in a reasonable time, there must be, for the interim period as a temporary measure, government ceilings on live hogs, with allocation of market supplies.

"The industry has considered carefully the possibility of ceilings on live cattle, calves, sheep, and lambs, and has concluded that no plan that would be prac-

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tical or workable can be developed for putting ceilings on the prices of these types of livestock.

"Until such time as supply and demand are brought into balance, inequalities in the ceiling prices on the dressed meat from these species of livestock must be corrected, as a necessary measure of relief to this division of the industry."

Industry Advisory Committee Needed

Every committee which contemplated a series of controls emphasized the necessity for an industry committee satisfactory to the industry to advise with the government. The pattern of the thinking of all committees was clear that determination by any Washington administrator with respect to the meat business cannot be advised satisfactorily by persons who are not entirely and currently familiar with the industry; that no one can be entirely familiar with the industry if he is not currently and actively connected with it.

From the discussions it also seemed obvious that the industry can hold no hope for satisfactory consultation with government unless that consultation be organized and continuing. Sporadic advice from ever-changing groups of individuals cannot encompass properly the many ramifications of industry problems.

Strict Enforcement Imperative

Past experience brings into focus the importance of the government providing for adequate enforcement before any plan is put into effect.

The success or failure of any war-time meat management program depends upon a complete enforcement from the start of any rules, regulations, or restrictions which may be imposed.

Informed Public Opinion Needed

That, of course, brings us to the question as to how to get government regulations or laws complied with. The first step in compliance is the question: Can the regulation be sold from the standpoint of reasonableness to the American people? If the people accept it, there will be enough willing compliance to reduce materially the problem of enforcement.

Public opinion will be influenced greatly by its understanding of the rules of the game, and by its confidence in the soundness and fairness of the rules, and its belief in the integrity of the administration of them.

It is hoped that the administrative agencies of the government will join with the industry in supporting this program so that both the government and the industry jointly or independently utilize their resources to bring to the public an adequate understanding of the importance of the program, of the significance of the details, and of the part the individual may play in making the necessary government regulations serve the greatest national good.

MARKETS

MARCH MARKETS

By H. W. French

UPURNS IN LIVESTOCK PRICES

continued and there seems to be no limit to the stronger trend, despite all the conditions which should act as a check on the advance, even though they are not of a nature to bring about steady and sharp declines. Best grain-fed steers at Chicago hit the highest level since 1928 when the top rested at \$18.75, while hogs went back to 1920 when the high figure was \$18.25, and fat lambs reached the highest point since 1920 when a top of \$18.10 was registered.

Perhaps it takes a crystal gazer or someone with occult power to explain the reasons for the remarkably healthy undertone of the current livestock markets, for certainly those in the trade who usually are in a position to diagnose the situation have nothing definite to offer in the way of explanation for the continued strong tone in prices for meat animals. True, everyone knows that there is a tremendous demand for meat and that this demand both from civilians and the armed forces will continue, but especially in the case of beef, with ceiling prices prevailing which do not warrant current live cattle prices, it is hard to believe that slaughterers can continue to support the market.

Every day one hears that prices must come down, yet nothing in the form of an appreciable break in prices develops. After every minor drop in values the market immediately recovers and quite frequently hits a new high level before any reaction takes place. The experts have little to say that is helpful to the man producing and feeding livestock, and at the present writing one man's guess or judgment is as good as another's. Only one thing is sure, and that is that we need the production and feeding operations to the utmost, as processors must have supplies.

Big cattle runs on Monday at Chicago have been out for some time, and opening supplies at many of the other primary markets have not been large. Probably country owners have found more equal distribution of the supplies and more orderly marketing to their advantage, and then again the great increase in the number of country auction sales may be partly responsible for this situation. The change in marketing habits has been gradual and not a mushroom affair.



H. W. French

Slaughter Permits Required

Effective midnight, March 31, all slaughterers, including farmers and local butchers, were required to operate under a slaughter permit system, and as of March 5 all federally inspected meat packers were ordered to set aside for war uses whatever percentages of production are required from time to time by the Food Distribution Administration. It is necessary for all livestock dealers to obtain permits to buy and sell, although dealers at posted markets don't need new permits but must keep records. Secretary Wickard announced these orders to obtain more meat for war needs and insure fair distribution to civilians preparatory to rationing. Set-aside orders will be flexible, so that during heavy production periods government takings will be high and in times of lighter production takings will be reduced accordingly.

Shipper buyers continued their liberal competition for grain-fed cattle at Chicago for delivery eastward, while at many of the western markets west coast buyers operated extensively and purchased heifers and cows as well as steers. Western buyers scrambled for the strictly good and choice steers and heifers and often paid the top of the market. Some of the large packers have been shipping live cattle and dressed beef to the west coast to help relieve the meat shortage there.

While strictly choice and prime cattle have been comparatively scarce at many markets, the percentage of common offerings also has contracted sharply. This leaves the great bulk in the medium and good grades. During the first week of March, choice and prime steers made up only 10.9 per cent of the supply of steers at Chicago sold out of first hands, and this meager number at that was .5 per cent larger than the final week in February. Good steers made up 40.2 per cent of the supply, medium 46.1 per cent, and common 2.8 per cent. During the corresponding week in 1942, choice and prime were 16.5 per cent, good 46.9 per cent, medium 33.3 per cent, and common 3.3 per cent.

All beef steers at Chicago the first week of March averaged 1,064 pounds, against 1,118 pounds a year earlier. There was over \$4 per cwt. difference in the average cost of common steers and those of choice and prime combined. Choice and prime at \$16.92 stood \$2.51 higher than a year ago. Good figured \$15.77 and \$12.94, respectively, medium \$14.46 and \$11.27, respectively, and common \$12.77 and \$9.67, respectively. These figures show common and medium steers up more from a year ago than the higher grades, indicating that buyers need numbers.

Long-fed cattle are not plentiful, and many markets have been reporting the

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

arrival of "new crop" steers and heifers—those fed six months or less. While many steers at some markets have been selling near the top, some points had comparatively few within a half dollar of the top. This was more pronounced in the heifer trade where short-feds predominated at most markets, and quite frequently the bulk sold from 75 cents to \$1 below the top. Calfy heifers have been numerous around the circuit, and these have been selling at sharp discounts.

Cattle and Calf Slaughter Down

Slaughter of cattle and calves under federal inspection for February fell off from a year ago, as was the case in January, but hog slaughter, which was down in January, showed an increase for February. Sheep and lamb slaughter gained in January and February. Slaughter at 27 centers the first week of March was down on everything as compared with the corresponding week in 1942.

During the past month bull prices fluctuated sharply, but the close was not the low point. Other cattle did not fluctuate much, as the general tendency was upward, with very few down markets. Mid-March prices were at or near new high levels at Chicago for all classes of slaughter cattle and calves. Beef steers and heifers were mainly 25 to 50 cents above mid-February. Cows were chiefly 50 cents higher, but strictly good kinds with weight, which were scarce, showed even more gain. Cannery and cutters looked around 25 to 50 cents higher, with cutters far more numerous than cannery. Bulls finished about 25 cents higher. Vealers were largely 50 cents higher but there was not much new strength reported on heavy slaughter calves.

Several loads of choice grain-fed steers at Chicago scored \$17.40 and a large quota cleared at \$17 to \$17.35, including some finished light yearlings at \$17.20 to \$17.25. Most of the medium to choice steers cleared at \$14.25 to \$16.75. Included in the medium offerings were several long strings of 950- to 1,080-pound near short-feds at \$14.60 to \$15.25 and these were cattle similar to those selling at \$10.75 to \$11.25 a year ago. Toppy mixed yearling steers and heifers sold at \$16.60 to \$16.75, while straight heifers sparingly made \$16.25 to \$16.35. Most medium to good heifers landed at \$13 to \$15.50. Any number of medium to good cows sold at \$11.75 to \$13.75, but good kinds occasionally sold at \$14 to \$14.50. For a time strong weight cutter cows were obtainable mostly around \$10, but near the close best made \$10.50 to \$10.75 and only the lightweight cannery sold much below \$9. Many of the medium to good sausage bulls sold at \$13 to \$14 but heavy westerns were reported at \$14.25 and a fair quota of natives at \$14.25 to \$14.50 and some of a beef type as high as \$14.75. Choice vealers usually sold at \$17 to \$17.50.

That steer prices are higher throughout the land was evidenced in the sale of



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Cheyenne

What About Black Markets?

All persons who slaughter livestock and sell meat must have a permit after April 1. These permits can be obtained from County USDA War Boards. Slaughterers will be given a number and all wholesale cuts of meat sold must carry this number which must be at least a quarter of an inch high. It is hoped that this permit system will stop black market operators.

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some Arizona fed offerings at Los Angeles at \$16.75 to \$17. There were steers up to \$17.15 at Omaha, where several choice to prime loads made \$16.70 to \$17. Good to choice were most numerous at \$14.50 to \$16 and medium kinds usually moved at \$13.25 to \$14.25. Best heifers scored \$15.85 to \$16 and other good to choice usually made \$14 to \$15.50. Medium to good cows bulked at \$11 to \$12.50, although some good lots scored \$13 to \$13.30. Bulls went downward from \$14 and best vealers made \$16.

Top beef steers at Kansas City at \$16.60 averaged 1,057 to 1,124 pounds and scattered other choice loads made \$16 to \$16.30. It was largely a \$13.75 to \$15.75 market for medium to good arrivals. Many heifers went at \$13.75 to \$15.25 but some scored \$16 to \$16.50, the latter price stopping best mixed yearlings. Most of the medium to good bulls sold at \$12.50 to \$13.75. Medium to good cows bulked at \$11 to \$12.50 and some good kinds sold at \$13 and up, a few topping at \$14.

Top steers at St. Paul at \$17 stood the highest at that point for March in 24 years. Other choice kinds were reported at \$15.75 to \$16.50 but medium to good bulked at \$13.25 to \$15. Choice heifers scored \$15 to \$15.75 and choice mixed yearlings reached \$16.25. Common to good cows made \$9.75 to \$13. Bulls sold largely at \$13.25 down and vealers reached \$16.50. Sioux City reported finished 1,053-pound steers at \$16.50 and choice 1,400- to 1,600-pound kinds at \$16.35, several loads selling at \$15.90 to \$16.25 and most good to choice at \$14.25 to \$15.25 and medium largely \$13 to \$14. Medium to good heifers bulked at \$12.25 to \$14.75 and choice scored \$15 to \$15.75. Medium to good cows cleared at \$10.50 to \$13.50, and bulls sold up to \$14. Many steers at St. Joseph made \$13.50 to \$15.50 and best scored \$15.75 to \$16.40, while mixed yearlings reached \$16.25 and heifers topped at \$16. Most cows went at \$10.25 to \$12.50 and best scored \$13 to \$13.50, bulls usually selling from \$13.50 down.

Several loads of choice steers at Denver at \$16 to \$16.15 were among those sent to the west coast, and these usually averaged around 1,200 to 1,380 pounds. Any number of good to choice cleared at \$15 to \$15.95, while medium to good short-feds were most numerous at \$13.75 to \$14.75. Any number of medium Mexicans sold at \$12.75 to \$13.25, a few improved loads making \$13.50 to \$14 and common kinds \$11 to \$12.25. Some good cows sold at \$12.10 to \$12.50 and the bulk common to good at \$10.25 to \$12. Only very light canners sold at \$8 and below, while most of the cutters sold at \$9.25 to \$9.75. Choice heifers sold generally at \$15.25 to \$15.70 and medium to good at \$13.50 to \$15, with common to medium at \$12 to \$13. Practical top on bulls was \$12.75 and medium to good bulked at \$11 to \$12.50. Choice heavy slaughter calves made \$15 and better and choice vealers reached \$17.

Replacement Cattle Wanted

Outlet for replacement cattle and calves apparently has not been satisfied, as buyers were numerous at the various market centers, and down in Texas there is no end to those seeking stocker and feeder offerings. High prices did not deter buyers of replacement stock to any extent, and they continued to buy wherever they set their eyes on what they wanted. As one man put it, "Certainly I made money on the fat cattle I marketed recently, and, should I lose money this season because of high replacement cost, I should worry; but I am willing to take the chance." That apparently is the attitude of many, even though the corn situation in some western sections is beginning to hurt.

It has been reported that recent attractive fat-cattle prices have brought some people into the cattle feeding game without any previous experience and without any knowledge of the hazards at a time like this. Some old-time operators have been hesitant about loading up normally, but most of them will be back to some extent. Reports from Texas indicate that there are more buyers than cattle, and in some instances owners are asking around \$15 for coming yearlings. At the moment, some sections are very dry, and this may cause a temporary heavy movement of stocker cattle marketward.

Stocker and feeder steers at Chicago the first week of March cost \$13.77 against \$10.88 a year ago. Kansas City's average cost figured \$14.28 and \$10.94, respectively, and St. Paul figures stood at \$13.03 and \$9.85, respectively, although the prices for the different markets do not necessarily represent the same grades of cattle. Cost of replacement steers for January and February combined for 1943 and 1942 were as follows: Chicago \$13.07 and \$10.41, Kansas City \$13.06 and \$10.63, and St. Paul \$12.06 and \$9.74.

Country buyers were able to get few fleshy two-way steers at Chicago be-

cause of the urgent killer buying of short-feds with any covering. The supply of strictly stocker cattle was limited, so that much of the country buying was done at points where suitable kinds were more plentiful. While a certain number of men sought steers for short finishing purposes, most prospective buyers were after little cattle, preferably thin and suitable for running on grass. Quotations at Chicago at mid-March were largely 50 to 75 cents higher than a month earlier, and advancing replacement costs were reported elsewhere.

Medium to good steers went out from Chicago at \$13 to \$14.50, while some slightly better scored \$15 and meaty feeders around 900 pounds sold at \$15.40. Hardly any calves were available, and this was true of she-stock suitable for country needs. Kansas City reported any number of medium to choice steers on country account at \$12.50 to \$15.25, including some fleshy feeders at the latter price. Choice light yearlings occasionally made \$15.50 to \$15.75 and short yearlings, little bigger than calves, reached \$16. Some good to choice steer calves sold at \$16.50.

Omaha had some 550- to 575-pound choice yearling steers to country buyers at \$15.90 and some other good to choice light yearlings at \$15 to \$15.75, but most of the medium to good stocker and feeder steers were obtained at \$12.50 to \$14.50. Good to choice steer calves made \$16.50 to \$17.25 and heifer calves went out at \$15.25 down. Medium to good steers at Sioux City sold at \$12 to \$14 and some choice 525- to 700-pound steers went out as high as \$15.50. Strictly good calves made \$16.

Any number of medium to low choice steers went out from Denver at \$12.50 to \$15 and only a very common kind sold below \$11.25. There were some 540- to 550-pound yearlings bordering on the calf order at \$15.50 to \$16. Common to good stock cows sold at \$8.75 to \$11.25 and most sales were at \$9 to \$10.75. Medium to choice heifers went to the country at \$12 to \$14. Numerous loads of good to choice heavy steer calves sold at \$16.10 to \$16.75 and comparable heifer calves made \$15 to \$15.75. It was largely a \$16.50 to \$17 market for vealer weight calves taken by country buyers, but some around 130 to 150 pounds sold at \$17.50 to \$18.

Some stock steer yearlings around 600 pounds reached \$15.35 at St. Joseph, where a few other steers went out at \$14.65 to \$15 and the bulk medium to good scored \$13 to \$14.50, some 1,030-pound feeders being included at the latter figure. Good to choice heifer calves made \$15.25. Choice feeder steers at St. Paul were taken at \$14.50 to \$14.75 and most of the medium to good offerings sold at \$11.75 to \$13.75.

Hogs Hold Up

Hog values kept a fairly even keel until around March 10 when rumors of a live ceiling price on hogs at a lower fig-



"I suppose it would be unpatriotic to check up on where our husbands REALLY go when they say they're on air-raid duty!"

ure than current levels caused an uneven decline. Nothing officially developed, and the decline was checked immediately. Mid-March prices at Chicago were largely weak to 15 cents lower than a month earlier, but on the low spot sales were around 50 cents below the month's high spot. Sows held more uniform than butcher hogs and finished about the same as mid-February.

It was a surprise to many that hog prices worked to a new high level during the month, but supplies have not been heavy and the usual broad demand continued, although there were times when the big packers attempted bearish tactics. Some have been wondering why the supplies have not come nearer expectations, but heavy death losses have been reported from many sections and trade interests estimated that the farm slaughter since the new crop of hogs has amounted to around 4,000,000 head.

All-weight butchers of good to choice grade sold within a narrow range, with the exception of those below 180 pounds and those above 330 pounds. The corn-hog ratio is hardly so good for the feeder as a short time ago, and with considerable uplift in the price of corn in feeding sections profits ahead may not be so large as during recent months.

Good to choice hogs late in February at Chicago sold generally at \$15.60 to \$15.80, but early in March the top rose to \$16, slumped to \$15.50 later, and at the middle of the month rested at \$15.55. Good to choice sows closed mainly at \$15.10 to \$15.35.

An unusually high percentage of the new lambs in California now promise to be in slaughter flesh at delivery time, as forage conditions have improved greatly within the past month. Most of the larger lamb bands have been placed under contract and late trading was largely confined to the smaller bands. It was estimated around the middle of March that 75 per cent of the lamb crop was under contract. Some contracts in the San Joaquin Valley at \$14 to \$14.60 straight across were expected to carry at least 80 per cent fat lambs. Some contracts were reported at \$14.75 to \$15, permitting sorting and for delivery around April 1. Some resale of feeder ends of earlier contracted lambs was reported at \$13.50 to \$14. Some new lambs in Arizona were taken at \$14 to \$14.50.

Early Lamb Count Down

Fewer early lambs in the principal producing states are reported by the Department of Agriculture. This reduction is largely a result of the smaller number of breeding ewes in these states. On the whole, the early lambs this year made a better development than last year and marketings of early lambs before July 1 may be little different from that in 1942. Grass-fat yearlings out of Texas in the second quarter of the year are expected to fall off.

Feed and weather conditions on the Pacific coast and adjoining states have

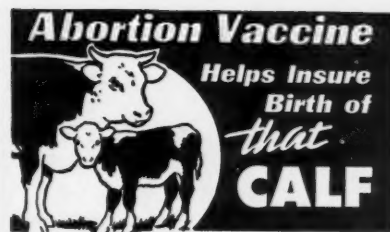
been rather spotted. Conditions were rather favorable in California and Arizona, average in Idaho, below average in Washington, and decidedly poor in Oregon. Despite several periods of low temperature and less precipitation than normal, conditions as of March 1 were favorable, with grain pastures short and other feeds plentiful. Early lambs in Texas hardly made average growth, and ewes and yearlings were in only fair condition.

Some of the Missouri River markets have been getting rather liberal supplies of lambs. These included many feed-lot lambs. At some points the good runs meant an influx of wheatfield offerings, indicating the tag end of the season for such pasture lambs. Around the middle of March, trade estimates placed the number of lambs in the feed-lots in northern Colorado, the Arkansas Valley, and in the Scottsbluff area below 800,000 head, or little more than 100,000 short of the corresponding time a year ago, when loadings were heavier.

Lamb prices worked upward for the period but reacted at the close, although slaughter ewes showed no late weakness. New high levels attracted increased receipts late, but the number of lambs ready for market at this time is not excessive, and with orderly marketing there is no reason for the market to slump to any extent. Weights are not so attractive as a year ago and lambs over 110 pounds were not uncommon. Chicago reported fat-lamb prices at mid-March about 25 to 50 cents higher than a month earlier, while yearlings were around 25 cents higher. Ewes sold readily on a strong to 25-cent higher level.

It was largely a \$16 to \$16.50 market for good to choice fed woolled lambs, although frequently the top was at \$16.60 and higher, best on the high day making \$16.85 but closing limit was \$16.60. Hardly any natives passed \$16.50. Any number of wheat pasture lambs at Kansas City sold at \$16 to \$16.40. Chicago reported yearlings as high as \$15. Good to choice ewes at several markets sold at \$9 to \$9.50. Good to choice clipped lambs landed at \$15.25 to \$16 but only a small part of them sold above \$15.75.

Feeder and shearing lambs were in broad demand, although the supply was comparatively light, those suitable for shearing purposes making up the bulk on sale. Prices rose sharply at Omaha and Denver, occasional sales at other "River" points also displaying an advance. Generally, the advance averaged 50 cents as compared with a month earlier. Over 7,000 feeding and shearing lambs in one week sold at Omaha at \$15.25 to \$15.70, the latter price for 83-pound shearers. Straight feeding lambs at Denver sold as high as \$15.25 and averaged 73 pounds, heavier shearing lambs selling up to \$15.50. Medium feeder lambs were to be had at \$14 and below, but that was because most prospective buyers paid their attention to the good and choice offerings.



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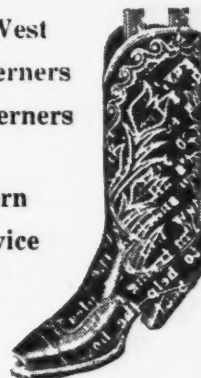
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WOOL AND HIDE TRADE

By H. W. F.

CONSIDERABLE CONTRACTING OF wool has been reported in the various wool producing states. Contracting slowed down in Texas late in February. Shearing was well under way in California, New Mexico, Arizona, and to some extent in Texas. Purchases of early shorn wools were made in California at a country grease price of 35 to 37 cents, or \$1.05 to \$1.07, clean basis, delivered Boston. Some Wyoming deals were at 40 to 43 cents, grease basis. Clips of small farmers in Indiana were reported at 42 to 43 cents, delivery to be made when shorn. Some Kentucky wool cleared at 46 to 47 cents, and Michigan offerings sold around 45 cents. Spring delivery of wool in Oregon was to be made at 39 to 40 cents, according to some reported contracts. A small lot of Arizona early shorn 12-month wool sold at 43 cents.

Carryover of domestic wool was the lowest on record, according to a release late in February. The market was very quiet. Demand continued good for spot and shortly to arrive foreign wools. Scoured South American wools moved in fair volume and were largely suitable for the making of blankets. Apparel raw wool consumption on a weekly scoured basis for January was 11,179,000 pounds compared with 11,376,000 pounds in December, 1942, and 11,120,000 pounds in January, 1942. The weekly average consumption in January was 5,639,000 pounds of domestic and 5,540,000 pounds of duty-paid foreign wool. Restrictions were placed on importation of Argentine wools. No permits to import wools finer than 58's will be granted.

Record Wool Production

Total shorn and pulled wool production in the United States in 1942 was 459,073,000 pounds, of which 392,373,000 pounds was shorn wool and 66,700,000 pounds was pulled wool. In addition there were 1,250,000 pounds of grease equivalent wool shorn from lamb and sheep skins as part of the process of producing shearlings. The 1942 production of shorn wool was the largest on record, and that of pulled wool the second largest on record. Total production was a new record, according to the Department of Agriculture.

The number of sheep shorn in 1942 is placed at 49,784,000, against 48,130,000 in 1941. Weight of wool per sheep stood at 8 and 8.11 pounds, respectively. Average local market price for shorn wool in 1942 was 40.1 cents per pound, compared with 35.5 cents in 1941. Cash income from wool in 1942 is estimated at \$157,235,000, against \$138,656,000 in 1941. The 1942 local price was the highest since 1920 and the cash income for 1942 was a new high record.

Pulled wool production in 1942 was exceeded only in 1932. The record slaughter of sheep and lambs in 1942 normally would have resulted in a production of

pulled wool much larger than in any other year, but the demand for shearling skins for the production of aviators' equipment resulted in diversion of many skins which normally would have been pulled.

The 1942 shorn wool estimate differed little from the preliminary of last August, but there were significant changes for some states. Total production in Texas fell off as a result of a more reduced production of fall shorn wool than was forecast in August. In some other states an upward revision of sheep numbers for January 1, 1942, resulted in a larger production than earlier estimated. For several native states the present estimates include wool shorn from lambs in the summer and fall of 1942 as a part of the program for increasing the number of lambs from which shearling skins could be produced.

Demand for quarter blood wools for blankets was good, but little was available for immediate delivery. Some bright fleece quarter blood wool at Boston made ceiling prices. Need for wools for socks and underwear has kept dealers in a sold-up condition. Fine foreign wools were in demand, with South American superfine and Australian fine comprising the bulk of the business. Some 1942 12-month Texas wools early in March were sold at a delivered price of 44 to 48 cents, grease basis. Original bag Idaho half blood and medium wools were sold for delivery at 43 to 45 cents.

Mohair production in 1942 in the seven leading states is estimated at 20,728,000 pounds, as released by the Department of Agriculture. This amount was over 1,000,000 pounds smaller than the record production of 1941, or a drop of 5 per cent. The 1942 figure, however, stood 18 per cent above the ten-year average, 1932-41. Goats clipped in 1942 numbered 4,332,000 against 4,544,000 in 1941. Average yield of hair per goat was 4.8 pounds in both years. Average price for 1942 was 49.3 cents per pound, indicating an income of \$10,225,000, as compared with an average price of 57 cents in 1942 when the total income was placed at \$12,422,000.

Hides

After March permits were issued there was some trading in hides at full ceiling prices and for a short time the demand was heavy, but later the market developed dullness and hardly any trading was indicated. It was reported that from 10,000 to 15,000 hides were left in February under unfilled permits. Changes in conditions were slight as compared with a month earlier. Little turnover in calf and kip skins was expected until hides were cleared. Quotations on packer hides were as follows: heavy and light native steer and cow, 15½ cents; butt branded and heavy Texas steer, 14½ cents. Branded cow hides were quoted at 14½ cents and native bull at 12 cents. Packer kipskins were quoted at 20 cents and packer calfskins at 20 cents.

There was a very quiet trade on small packer hides and also on country offerings, and demand was only fair. Quotations on country hides were as follows: native, all-weights and extremes, 28 to 42 pounds, 15 cents; branded hides, 14 cents. The bull quotation was 10 cents.

COMMENTS BY POOLE

A PERENNIAL FLOW OF RUMOR comes from Washington. Much of it masquerades as news, but the volume of guesstimates, particularly in the case of livestock and animal foods, is enormous. To the army of newsmongers, officials and otherwise, operating the grist mill,



James E. Poole

everything goes. Occasionally something definite comes over the wires, but much of this varied assortment of canards dissolves finally into thin air. Fantastic production goals are rarely realized; new emissions are constantly on tap. Statements by Prentiss Brown or Claude Wickard, even when nebulous, are inflated to half-column screeds, and when the smaller official fry whisper hints of coming events with a don't-mention-my-name admonition, the public gets a series of jolts. Rationing, black marketing, price ceilings, production incentives follow in rapid succession, literally bewildering the populace.

Diminishing meat production renders meat rationing imperative. Since the turn of the year, beef supply has been gradually drying up, gradually the portions required by the government for lend-lease and military purposes have increased. Deferred two months, official notice that meat rationing would become effective March 29 surprised no one, the interim developing the usual buying rush to stock up with semi-perishable meats. Actually rationing was in full force and effect for several weeks previously, acute scarcity developing as the winter worked along. Accompanying the official notice was a statement that Uncle Sam had instructed slaughterers under federal inspection to set aside specific percentages of their meat output for government use during the March 14 to April 30 period, including 40 per cent of beef other than canner and cutter grades; 80 per cent of canner and cutter products; 30 per cent of veal; 45 per cent of pork; and 35 per cent of

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

the lamb and mutton. Civilian consumers get the rest. What will happen when May comes around is in the sphere of speculation. Certainly the civilian share will not increase, as it is more than probable that production will decrease and government requirements expand. The ration prospectus allots to each civilian consumer "about" two pounds of meat each week with the understood, but not written, proviso, if that much is available. In other words, the citizen gets the residue, whatever that may be.

Where's the Meat?

Nothing in the production prospect affords the least encouragement to the meat-eating populace. What the public cannot understand is why, with recent record production, its share should suddenly contract. Big production is water that has gone over the dam. Extravagant goals are meaningless, except as incentives. Babbling into microphones, or pounding typewriter keys, gets the afore-said public nowhere. The latest estimate concerning livestock production bearing the official stamp has been received with skepticism, as it is based not merely on repetition of 1942 results, but substantial increases, with the exception of ovine products. No allowance is made for liquidation which was, obviously, the reason for last year's record figures. Anyhow, since the turn of the year cattle slaughter has diminished alarmingly, beef tonnage is declining even to a greater extent; pork production shows a slight increase due to heavier yields and the fact that more processors are reporting, having come under federal inspection to get government contracts; and a slight lamb and mutton increase is at the vanishing stage.

A group of beef men, alarmed over diminishing weight of cattle, accompanied by diminishing yields, resorted to lead pencil work at mid-March. Naturally results are somewhat speculative and anything but exact, but a definite conclusion was reached that, since the production peak was passed last November, monthly supply had been cut about 14,000 tons. This explains the constant and unfilled consumer demand for beef. To a considerable extent, the 10 per cent decrease in cattle slaughter during the first three months of 1943, compared with the corresponding period of last year, was a draft on spring and summer supply, as long-fed steers practically disappeared, probably never to return as beef-makers are fed up with that type.

Long strings of 900- to 1,100-pound cattle in the feed-lot 90 to 130 days have been trooping to the shambles since the turn of the year. Constant, if unauthorized, threats of price ceilings, rising cost of feed, labor scarcity, and a desire to count the money are dislodgment factors. Long-feds are not profitable, even at \$17 to \$17.40 per cwt.; practically all the short-feds have made money, especially underweights. Current cost of putting a pound of gain

on a steer that has reached 1,200 pounds is prohibitive, and only a few feeders addicted to the habit will continue that policy. The government has turned down the product of steers in the higher price bracket definitely, and with both thumbs. Intermediate types, weighing 1,000 to 1,200 pounds are getting the play. Low grade or common types are no longer available in considerable numbers. Killers are getting nothing capable of hanging up a decent carcass under \$12.

When top cattle reached \$19.90 late in 1937 in consequence of a corn famine, precipitating a meat consumers' strike, Tom Wilson remarked, "We let the price get away from us; it will never happen again." Threat of repetition, however, looms up. The beef house talent strenuously resisted a rising top until it got away from them early in March, when the \$17 line was crossed; now as an \$18 top looms up they are fighting with their backs to the wall. The type of bullock now selling from \$17 to whatever the top may be now is not a replica of top steers before the break last November, lacking the condition essential to "prime" qualification. That they are few is indicated by the price. To hold down the top, killers are substituting the product of intermediate cost cattle, costing more money in the beef than "toppers." The result is that the entire crop is selling in a narrow spread, \$14.50 to \$16.75 per cwt.; under \$15 yields are deficient; 60 per cent carcasses are the exception nowadays.

Occasionally Chicago gets a load of near-prime cattle; at other markets a search warrant would not locate them. Figured on merit, western market values are probably even higher than Chicago, few consignments from the trans-Missouri section making the trip eastward. One Kansas feeder, Corbstein, has been topping at Chicago occasionally, Iowa furnishing the bulk of steers selling at or above \$17. Usually at this season conditions improve as the winter works along but not this year, as the crop has been persistently picked unripe. In anticipation of this, the trade sent admonition to the country early in January to put on extra 100 to 150 pounds, but the advice went unheeded. The usual explanation is: "I should have fed them another 60 days, but they brought good money and anything may happen now."

Many Premature Marketings

That describes the beef-makers' attitude. He is not in a mood to overplay what is termed a "good market," and anything may happen. Apprehension of a hoof ceiling has been effective in premature marketing at light weight on a scale of unestimated magnitude amounting to sacrifice of valuable raw material that cannot be replaced. When Prentiss Brown recently stated, or was quoted as making the statement, that a cattle price ceiling was in the pan, he dislodged many thousand cattle that would still figure in the visible supply.

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His remark may not have been prophetic, intended as a dose of solace to clamorous killers, but feeders did not so take it.

Ahead of the Taxeaters

Another premature dislodgment factor was the personal property assessor who makes his annual rounds on March 1 or April 1. Values have appreciated to levels where personal property taxes—and cattle are personal property—mean something in these days of high flying taxes of all descriptions, and local taxeaters are out for every cent they can wrangle. The present system of assessing livestock ready to go to market or destined to travel that way within the ensuing 30 to 60 days, is unjust, as they are merely pilgrims. Anyhow, such premature unloading reduces supply and under normal conditions invariably enables killers to put prices several notches lower. This year owing to deficient current beef supply, this was impossible.

Demand for beef at the cooler has not only depleted feed-lots prematurely but has materially restricted seasonal replacement, putting a serious crimp on spring and summer beef supply. Kansas City, the only stocker market on the map with anything resembling a seasonal supply, is sending only an occasional load of two-way steers to the country. It would take that type in unlimited numbers if available. At other markets a similar condition exists; any critter capable of hanging up a decent carcass gets a killer bid 50 to 75 cents per cwt. higher than feeders are willing to pay, restricting the country-ward movement to yearlings and short "twos." Chicago is practically out of the stock cattle business, as old-time "native" cattle are no longer available and speculators, after futile buying expeditions to the western breeding ground, have gone into retirement. Omaha and Sioux City reported an increase in cattle supply during March, but it represented liquidations of winter production in anticipation of spring work, probably accelerated by the price ceiling scare, and yielded few replacements. A clean-up in the Northwest is reflected in diminishing supply at St. Paul, Minnesota, which was full of stockers up to early January. With a seasonal rise of grass in the low-altitude country—and physical conditions were never better or the pasture acreage as extensive—an unsatisfied scramble for grazing cattle is inevitable, probably at still higher prices, since in a buying craze, as in a mob, there is no reason.

Scarce as Hens' Teeth

Common stock cattle which would be useful in this emergency to harvest a grass crop and go on new corn next fall are no more plentiful than avian molars. The South, meaning the area east of Texas, has been literally cleaned out. Local demand for low-grade beef over the Cotton Belt is unappeasable, the overflow, if that expression is justi-

fied, going to St. Louis, where the product disappears overnight into the capacious maw of a civilian population noted for eating low-grade meat. Little southern cattle, of both sexes, known colloquially as "heretics" and three-year-old yearlings earn more money when they go over the scales at the National Stock Yards than anywhere else on this mundane sphere.

Beef is nowhere scarcer than along the Atlantic seaboard, especially around Philadelphia and New York. To this fact is attributed a substantial increase in shipping demand at Chicago. New York buyers go afield each morning, gobble all the so-called choice steers and on a second round fill orders by taking intermediate types for substitution. All these cattle are koshered, as without that outlet practically no live cattle would go eastward. Local killers invariably get the short end of each day's three-day supply, as the Thursday market is invariably a clean-up of "staters," plus a delegation from nearby feed-lots, and on Friday empty pens are conspicuous. Three months ago I wrote a story in the *Meat Magazine*, a Chicago trade journal, forecasting cattle market events during the first quarter of 1943, also the reasons therefore; and that is just what has happened ad interim. The theme inspired the editor to produce a half page photo over the caption: "Empty Stock Yard Pens." A similar condition has been the rule at every market around the circle, especially after the first buying skirmish, as, only on rare occasions has there been a sign of bovine life out in the alleys after noon. Whenever, as frequently happens, outsiders make a buying raid, then activity is cited as evidence that "black marketing" is flourishing.

Vanishing Pigs

Winter hog packing season results astound the trade. Where the expected run vanished is a problem. Pig mortality last spring and summer was largely re-

sponsible, thoroughly discrediting the June 1 estimate; the smoke house captured thousands and price ceiling apprehension sent other thousands to the butcher prematurely. But for Wickard's sagacity in putting a \$13.25 floor under the market while this liquidation was running its course, the winter crop of product would have been even less. As it is, the trade goes into the summer with deficient stocks of meat and woefully short stocks of lard. Notably in the Iowa-Minnesota area, where packers do most of their direct buying, has the winter run been far below the June 1 estimate which indicated increases of 25 to 30 per cent and has persistently run behind the corresponding period of 1942. That June 1 is too early to estimate the spring pig crop is apparent; also that the rural mail route man is not always a reliable reporter.

Rationing to the Rescue

Both Prentiss Brown and Secretary Wickard are confident that meat rationing will mitigate shortage. That it will create an extra pound of meat is an iridescent dream. Possibly meat may be diverted from illicit into regular channels, but that will not mitigate what is and will continue to be a bad situation, especially from the viewpoint of the consumer, who is in funds and constantly demanding more. Rationing will curb, if not end, such buying rushes as have marked market openings when frantic women make flying rushes at meat counters, the strongest getting the largest share. People are beginning to realize that this is not a faked shortage, although few understand why and how it happened.

The price office is under fire for placing a \$1.02 per bushel ceiling on corn—an action protested vociferously by the grain interest—but his action is fully justified by the rising cost of livestock feeding. Grain farmers have no kick coming, as they have been pampered by Washington right along with subsidies. Back in 1937 corn went to \$1.25 and \$1.50 per bushel in the country, throwing half-fat cattle on the market, seriously curtailing production and sending beef cost to unprecedented heights, culminating in a nationwide meat strike that reflected untold hardship on the industry and prejudiced consumers against the product. Many corn farmers have hoarded corn in expectation of repetition of the \$2 market at the close of the last war. OPA's timely action deprives them of this gambling incentive. In such emergencies as this someone always gets hurt and the resultant squeal designates who is hit. As for Messrs. Wickard and Brown, both hold jobs wherein satisfaction is impossible. I still insist that the former is the most competent man ever occupying the agriculture secretaryship; as for Prentiss Brown, he is serving a novitiate under trying circumstances and has yet to win his spurs.



"Is your boy friend an auctioneer? He keeps saying he's going—going—going, but he hasn't gone yet!"

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

OHIO IMPRESSIONS— LIMA TO NEWARK

By David I. Day

WHEN I WAS THROUGH A PART of Kansas some time ago, I failed to visit the noted Woody Hereford Ranch near Barnard and the result has been a number of letters from friends telling me about the fine herd of 125 to 150 cows maintained there by Warren Woody of Chicago—an insurance man in the vast windy city. I happen to know something about the cattle there, but the letters received considerably increased my knowledge of the subject, so I will outline briefly a few things picked up relative to the herd headed as many readers will know by the great Prince Domino C 150th.

The bull himself is the focal point of interest at the ranch. Letters tell me about him, other letters ask about him. Quite a few folks who wrote asking about this fine sire will always wonder how I got through several counties of the Sunflower State without seeing the animal. Harrisdale Farms near Ft. Worth, Texas, bred the bull. When Mr. Woody got him, he had every opportunity to make good, and did. The cow herd at Woody Ranch is second to none, and breeding stock from there is scattered all the way from Virginia to California. These cows cost real money, but their offspring have certainly not failed in winning public appreciation.

Last fall the ranch held a public auction—its first one—and many Illinois breeders attended and some purchased fine cattle there. I was in the vicinity of Pittsfield, Ill., and heard many comments on the even high quality of the cattle there. Not long ago, in Harlan, Ky., in the depth of the Cumberland Mountains coal country, I was told of a cow from Woody there in the highlands, a recent purchase by S. T. Turner.

Now, that this matter is cleared up,

we will tell of a recent Ohio trip. We left Ft. Wayne, Ind., traveling on U. S. 30 but left it at Lima, Ohio, passing through Bellefontaine and Marysville, reaching Newark late on the evening of the second day. Aside from the cattle and general agricultural impressions received, it was a worth while journey, as the region affords many interesting things for the traveler to see. It is a land settled early in the migration across the mountains from the Atlantic seaboard, and many a family heirloom is to be seen, brought in with the early settlement of the country, some of the old relics coming possibly with earlier generations who came across the sea. One Shorthorn breeder told me of family traditions carrying back to Gloucester, Mass., and of the day when his ancestor came "west," a couple of old-fashioned Durham cows pulling one of the wagons.

I was somewhat astonished to see no more beef cattle. While here and there were many small farm herds—mostly Scotch Shorthorns and Angus—and quite a few feed-lots filled with range Hereford calves, the number was not up to expectations. This is a good country for more beef production, but the farmers go more strongly in most communities visited for dairy cattle and hogs. Quite a few unusually large flocks of poultry were in nice, modern laying houses at various points along the road.

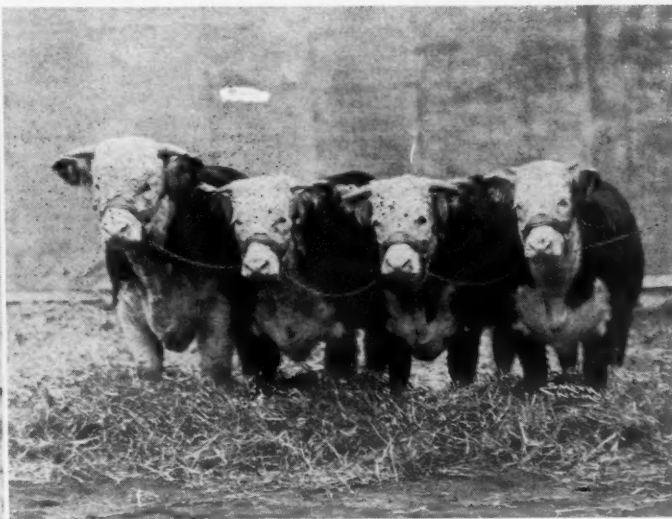
I should judge that about half the beef cattle fed out are from the real ranch country, and the quality average is high, which indicates that these people have no taste for feeding rough steers. The rural districts of these up-and-coming old Ohio counties are friendly spots. It is a region where folks have lived on the same soil in many instances generation after generation. A neighborly spirit prevails and the stranger is welcome.

One man was feeding out 75 mighty thrifty whiteface steers, said to have originated in northern New Mexico. He has kept tab on the beef feeding situa-

tion over a long period and he feels that beef feeding will be profitable for him and farmers like him, with plenty of hill pasture that is fine and many tons of low-grade roughage to dispose of. At the time of my visit, there were upturns on practically all classes of cattle at all the principal markets and quite a few were getting fidgety, anxious to convert cattle into cash. There was a feeling that this brisk market situation would be followed by a decided lull for weeks while the animals were consuming high-priced feeds. My friend with the 75 nearly ready steers, however, was very calm and content. He said that, while the prices had gone up at the Lake markets and in Cincinnati, the supply had not met the demand. So there must continue a good market for quite some time, especially in the good kind of steers. Said he: "Cattle can be too good for the market at present. These cattle will be ready to ship in five weeks or so, which is a month under what I may feed if there are indications that buyers will really come through for prime kinds. So far the fellow who tried to make his beef fairly good but not prime came out in front, from the pocketbook standpoint."

Evidence that the market was not satisfied or that prices made packers wary was seen in the fact that many country and small-town stores all down the highway were having trouble getting beef products. One small meat market man and grocer commented: "For the first time in 20 years I have no bologna sausage in stock. I have no beef of any kind but may get a small amount tomorrow. I have ordered three places, twice what I expect to get, but so far none of the orders has been filled."

Occasionally, no doubt, farmers are slipping in some meat to their town friends, as it appeared that more butchering was being done than is usual at this time of year. Another indication is that the customers talk less bitterly



Prince Domino C 150th, owned by Warren Woody, Chicago, Ill., and get of sire Prince Domino C 150th, also Woody property.

than the grocers and meat market men regarding the present meat situation. The housewives and laborers say patriotically: "If the boys at the front need it, we will do without and no kicking." The meat dealers are not so generous. As a rule, when housewives, defense workers, and the like get too contented in the face of a food shortage, they are getting a private supply somewhere.

All down through Allen, Logan, Union, Delaware, and Licking counties there was a feeling that the market will remain strong on good kinds, and many anticipate a rise on the choice sorts which are, indeed, scarce in central Ohio. Most feeders are inclined to go ahead feeding until the cattle are right, or nearly so, then to market with little fear of a failure to make a very fair profit. Despite ceiling prices on things, there is a tendency in this locality for prices to bulge a little here and a little there, and it is said that, unless something is done, the hog and cattle men next year may find feed and livestock prices out of line.

In Licking County, of which Newark is the county seat, there are only nine or ten beef cattle feeders of consequence, but they are now feeding good ones—western whitefaces, the native reds, and blacks, and some few with dairy inheritance not so far back. Around Newark were most of the commercial feed-lots. There were nice cattle also in the vicinity of Hanover, Hebron, and Granville. In this country are some 20 4-H and Future Farmer boys with beef steer projects, possibly 25 head. They will show these animals at the Producers' Co-operative Show in Columbus next October.

There are quite a good many rather new pedigreed beef herds in the locality traversed, some rather small. Other registered cattle herds date back quite a good many years and have quite a following. Of greatest interest among those mentioned or seen on the way down was possibly the Elmhurst Farms herd of Shorthorns, owned by F. S. Davidson, Lima, Ohio. This herd is headed by Edellyn Modern Mercury, a fine son of the imported Perth champion, Calrossie Mercury, owned by Thomas E. Wilson, the packer, and in use on his great farm, Edellyn, at Wilson, Ill., above Chicago.

The situation in middle Ohio is summed up well by a farmer near Bellefontaine who declared: "It's all in the laps of the war gods. If the war continues and no greater deferment is granted farm help, we'll have to switch to beef. If the war ends and we have boys coming back in droves with the necessity to work facing them, I believe the dairy business will make an expansion at the expense of beef, so far as feeding 'westerns' is concerned. I believe the use of small farm herds in this locality is well established and is a practice never to be dropped."

LIVESTOCK AT STOCKYARDS

RECEIPTS—	February 1942		First Two Months 1943	
	1943	1942	1943	1942
Cattle*	1,180,684	1,106,428	2,431,829	2,427,753
Calves	360,675	360,707	722,199	827,988
Hogs	2,814,372	2,463,038	6,245,114	6,166,603
Sheep and Lambs	1,670,354	1,534,848	3,609,330	3,225,831
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—				
Cattle*	524,565	360,951	1,076,031	838,061
Calves	154,874	118,443	300,612	301,711
Hogs	865,997	709,608	1,794,104	1,742,409
Sheep and Lambs	738,127	629,275	1,536,231	1,383,491
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	224,791	160,503	435,026	392,648
Calves	47,190	40,057	86,185	117,846
Hogs	72,680	46,318	128,376	106,558
Sheep and Lambs	230,232	126,129	438,267	323,466
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—				
Cattle*	853,912	891,013	1,782,000	1,948,000
Calves	331,166	392,093	671,000	832,000
Hogs	4,335,306	3,892,077	9,766,000	9,723,000
Sheep and Lambs	1,498,703	1,406,657	3,223,000	3,018,000

*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

	March 1, 1943†	Feb. 1, 1943	March 1, 1942	Five-Yr. Av.
Frozen Beef	92,549,000	100,018,000	130,818,000	69,649,000
Cured Beef*	8,550,000	7,167,000	19,592,000	15,749,000
Lamb and Mutton, Frozen	20,155,000	24,885,000	8,122,000	4,671,000
Frozen Pork	289,479,000	265,175,000	298,153,000	288,566,000
Dry Salt Pork*	137,311,000	114,520,000	82,071,000	86,752,000
Pickled Pork*	201,660,000	208,724,000	236,375,000	261,474,000
Meats, Miscellaneous	84,029,000	80,911,000	116,025,000	91,420,000
Lard	116,262,000	105,423,000	201,900,000	206,421,000
Rendered Pork Fat	7,451,000	6,444,000	4,665,000	†
Frozen Poultry	101,697,000	142,002,000	179,083,000	140,778,000

*Cured or in process of cure.

†Subject to revision.

‡Previously included with lard.

Note: Meats frozen or placed in cure during February, 1943, not available for publication; also cold storage holdings figures including government stocks are not available.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	March 16, 1943	Feb. 16, 1943	March 16, 1942
Slaughter Steers—Choice (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$16.50-17.40	\$16.50-17.00	\$14.25-15.50
Slaughter Steers—Good	15.25-16.75	15.25-16.50	11.75-14.25
Slaughter Steers—Choice (900-1,100 lbs.)	16.25-17.25	16.25-16.90	14.50-15.50
Slaughter Steers—Good	15.00-16.25	15.00-16.25	11.75-14.25
Slaughter Steers—Med. (700-1,300 lbs.)	13.25-15.25	12.75-15.25	10.00-11.75
Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (700-900 lbs.)	14.75-17.00	14.75-16.75	14.50-15.50
Heifers—Good-Choice	14.75-16.75	14.50-16.50	11.25-14.50
Cows—Good	13.25-14.50	13.00-13.50	9.25-10.00
Vealers—Good-Choice	16.00-17.50	15.50-17.00	14.00-15.50
Calves—Good-Choice	12.50-14.50	12.50-14.50	10.00-11.25
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Gd.-Ch.	13.50-15.50	12.75-15.00	10.75-13.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	11.25-13.25	10.50-12.75	8.75-11.00
Hogs—Med. Weights (200-240 lbs.)	15.35-15.55	15.60-15.75	13.40-13.60
Lambs—Good-Choice	15.75-16.60	15.50-16.50	11.50-12.15
Yearling Wethers—Good-Choice	13.75-14.75	13.50-14.50	
Ewes—Good-Choice	7.75- 9.50	7.75- 9.35	6.75- 7.85

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEATS

	New York March 15, 1943	New York Feb. 15, 1943	Chicago March 16, 1943
FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—			
Steer—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$23.50-23.75	\$23.50-23.75	\$20.00-21.00
Steer—Good	22.50-22.75	22.50-22.75	18.50-19.50
Steer—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	23.50-23.75	23.50-23.75	20.00-21.00
Steer—Good	22.50-22.75	22.50-22.75	19.00-20.00
Yearling Steer—Choice	23.50-23.75	23.50-23.75	20.50-21.50
Yearling Steer—Good	22.50-22.75	22.50-22.75	19.00-20.50
Cow—Commercial	20.50-20.75	20.50-20.75	15.50-16.00
Veal and Calf—Choice	22.25-26.50	22.25-26.50	20.00-22.00
Veal and Calf—Good	20.00-25.50	20.00-25.50	18.00-20.00
FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Lamb—Choice (all weights)	28.00-28.25	28.00-28.25	16.50-20.50
Lamb—Good	26.50-26.75	26.50-26.75	15.50-19.50
Ewe—Good	15.25-15.50	15.25-15.50	10.00-11.00
Ewe—Commercial	14.00-14.25	14.00-14.25	9.00-10.00
FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loin—8-12 lbs. average	28.00-28.75	28.00-28.75	24.00-25.50

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN RANGE AND STOCK REPORT

AS OF MARCH 1 WESTERN ranges had a fair to good supply of feed and livestock were in good condition, according to the Denver western livestock office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

East of the Divide good growth of old feed was general, except in parts of southern Texas. Montana and North Dakota ranges were mostly snow covered, and heavy feeding was necessary. Ranges largely were open and grazing conditions favorable in western South Dakota, eastern Wyoming, western Nebraska and Kansas, and eastern Colorado. This central plains region received but little moisture until early March snows came. In Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico ranges had fair to good feed, but southern Texas had short range feed. Most of this area needed moisture for spring feed.

Range feed conditions varied greatly west of the main range. Oregon and Washington ranges had opened, with limited supplies of old feed and good moisture, but new feed had been late in starting. The lower ranges in Idaho were well soaked, but old feed was poor. Utah and Nevada had fairly good old feed. California had a good new crop of feed well under way. Arizona's feed prospects were improved with rain. Feed was fair to good in western Colorado and western Wyoming.

Mountain areas of the West generally had a heavy snow covering.

The early March storm and cold made feeding necessary in parts of the Great Plains and caused some damage to new range and pasture feed in Texas. Wheat pastures in western Kansas and Texas were good but showed the effects of limited February moisture. Hay and grain feeds were ample in the central and northern Great Plains states. Some local shortages of feeds were reported in Oklahoma and parts of eastern and southern Texas. A short supply of high protein feeds caused more than the usual use of locally grown feeds and wheat. Hay supplies were short in Oregon and Washington. Local shortages were reported in Idaho, necessitating heavy feeding of grains, particularly wheat. Hay and concentrates were limited and high priced in California.

Condition of range feed on March 1 was 80 per cent. This compared with 80 last month, 83 a year ago, and 79 for the 1923-42 period.

Cattle were in good condition but showed some shrinkage from long feeding and storms. There were a few thin cattle in local areas of the Northwest and southern Texas. Winter losses have been light. Early March storms were hard on cattle in the central plains

sections of Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, eastern Colorado, and Texas, but losses were light. East of the main range cattle were generally in about the same condition as a year ago, except in parts of Texas. West of the Divide, the condition was several points lower, due to dry feed last fall, long feeding, and storms.

Sheep were in good condition, with some shrinkage in local areas where winter had been severe, and more than the usual feeding was required. Winter grazing has been poor to fair in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, and generally fair to good in Utah, Nevada, and western Colorado. Heavier feeding was necessary in Montana and North Dakota. New Mexico had favorable open range conditions, but moisture was needed. Texas had fair conditions in her sheep section, but January and early March freezes damaged new feed. Moisture was needed. Wyoming winter sheep conditions were fairly good. Lambs in Colorado and Nebraska feed-lots made good gains. There has been a heavy movement of lambs from the western Kansas wheat fields.

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

INCREASE IN GRAZING

Secretary of the Interior Harold S. Ickes, it is reported, favors an increase of 10 per cent in numbers of cattle and sheep grazing on public lands to help in the nation's meat problem. Carrying capacity of the grazing lands, he said in a letter to Senator Robertson, of Wyoming, "has been so restored that they will now permit an increase in sheep and cattle of about 10 per cent." The closest co-operation with stockmen will be necessary, he said, as there will be many areas where increased stocking will not be possible and some where stocking will be possible beyond 10 per cent.

FOOD SUPPLIES IN EUROPE

Total food supplies in Continental Europe, exclusive of Russia, are this year estimated to be from 2 to 3 per cent below those of 1941-42 and about 15 per cent below the pre-war average, according to the Department of Agriculture. The food supply in Continental Europe varies greatly from country to country and even between urban and rural areas within the same country. Most of the farm population is still living at pre-war levels while food consumption by many other groups has been drastically curtailed. The general reduction in food supplies is having less effect on conditions in Germany and Italy than in the occupied countries. Greater reliance than before the war is now being placed on foodstuffs of plant origin, especially on grains and potatoes. Such diversions

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from feed to food uses, however, have resulted in a further decline in the production of meat, milk, and eggs, the output of which had already been affected unfavorably by the elimination of imported feedstuffs.

VETERAN CATTLE BUYER RETIRES

Leo L. Daly, who bought cattle for Swift & Company for almost half a century, retired on pension recently. A native of St. Louis and first employed by Swift & Company at its East St. Louis plant, Daly's span of service in important meat packing centers of both North and South America, covered the evolution of the cattle business from a preponderance of large range animals to the compact smaller beefs of today. Daly's career on horseback as a cattle expert and buyer took him through the colorful stockyards in many sections of the country. At the time of his retirement he was head buyer at Chicago and had been with the company 50 years, with a service record surpassed by only two men in the entire Swift organization of 76,000 employees.

2,000,000 FEWER AUTOS

Approximately 2,000,000 passenger cars and trucks disappeared from the United States streets and highways during 1943, according to the American Automobile Dealers' Association. The report indicated that at the end of 1942 there were 28,553,945 passenger cars and 4,378,780 trucks in service in the country. Reports from a number of states were not included in the tabulations for the reason that their registration years do not correspond with the calendar year, but the showing in these states was in line with returns from other parts of the country. . . . Reports indicate that not more than 1,000,000 automobiles remain in operation on the highways of Continental Europe.

AVOID POISON IN HOME CANNING

Two ways in which the danger of poisoning from botulism may be obviated are given by Dr. W. P. Glick, of Colorado State College in Fort Collins. First, if the canning of meats and non-acid vegetables is properly done in a pressure cooker, the bacteria will be destroyed, because the heat produced by this method is sufficient to kill them. Second, if such food is canned by another method than the pressure cooker, but boiled for 15 minutes before even tasting, the toxin which may have formed will be destroyed so that there will be no danger in eating the food. Even the eating of one pea from a jar where the toxin has formed is sufficient to cause death, Dr. Glick says.

WHEAT FOR CATTLE

Wheat can be used to good advantage as part of the grain for cattle, according to R. A. Rasmussen, writing in "Farm and Home Science," published by the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station. As wheat lacks bulk, it is usually best to mix one-third oats and two-thirds wheat, he advises. This helps to prevent digestive upsets and bloat. "If wheat is the only grain available, then mixing ground wheat and ground hay will increase the bulk and help prevent bloat. The change to wheat should be gradual. Also wheat should be fed on the basis of its content of total digestible nutrients. Too often a farmer feeding about eight pounds of barley or barley and oats per head daily (total digestible nutrients: barley, 78.7 per cent; oats, 71.5 per cent) will shift to eight pounds of wheat (total digestible nutrients, 85.7 per cent). This increases the total digestible nutrients consumed and could in itself cause bloat. Wheat should be coarsely ground for cattle."

MEAT BOOKLETS

To assist civilians in extending available supplies of meat, the National Live Stock and Meat Board has published a 12-page folder entitled "Variety Meats," which gives recipes for the use of heart, liver, kidney, sweetbreads, tongue, tripe, and brains. . . . "Victory Meat Extenders" is another new book recently put out by the Meat Board, designed to assist housewives in making the most of their meat purchases during the emergency. Copies of "Victory Meat Extenders" may be obtained from the American National Live Stock Association, 515 Cooper Building, Denver.

NEW FORESTER IN NORTH

Horace J. Andrews has been appointed regional forester in charge of Forest Service work in the North Pacific region, succeeding Lyle F. Watts who became chief of the Forest Service January 8, the Department of Agriculture announced. Headquarters of the North Pacific region, which includes Washington and Oregon, is at Portland, where Mr. Andrews has been for the last 13 years. The region includes 20 important national forests which last year furnished more than a third of the timber sold from all national forests. They also provide seasonal grazing for about 1,000,000 head of livestock, protect the watersheds of some of the country's largest power developments, and in normal times provide recreation for some 2,000,000 persons each year.

RESEEDING RANGE LAND

"Reseeding to Increase the Yield of Montana Range Land" is a Montana Forest and Range Experiment Station booklet by L. R. Short telling how range lands can be brought back quickly to better forage through artificial reseeding. The information is equally appli-

cable in other states having conditions similar to those in Montana. Copies may be obtained free from the regional forester at Missoula, Mont.; Denver, Colo., or any forest supervisor in Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota.

BREEDERS' PUBLICITY

The Colorado Hereford Breeders' Association intends to use the attractive cut shown here in their publicity. The plan is that the members of the breeders' organization will use the emblem in one of three sizes—the one shown here is the medium size—in all their advertising matter and on their own letterheads. The cuts are available for breeders' use in publicity in which the breeder cares to identify himself with the association. Write to Rad Hall, secretary, 1820 Curtis Street, Denver, Colorado. The cuts are free.



TESTS REVEAL 45 MPH DESIRABLE

Following a state-wide study of over-the-road commercial motor vehicle operations at speeds of 35 and 45 miles per hour, the engineering division of the California Railroad Commission has concluded that "it would be to the best interest of the public, under prevailing war conditions, to adopt a maximum speed restriction for passenger stage and truck operation of 45 mph." Results of the test show: (1) Little variation in tire wear at either speed; (2) greater conservation of replacement parts at 45 miles per hour; (3) more efficient use of man power and transportation facilities at 45 miles per hour; (4) less motor fuel consumption at 35 miles per hour in three out of four series of test runs. The report did not include passenger automobile operation or intra-city commercial vehicles since the speed of "35 mph has little application in urban motor vehicle operation."

FAT STOCK SHOW

As incentive for production of livestock for war purposes, as urged by Secretary Wickard, the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company will sponsor a fat stock show in 1943 which will also include classes for 4-H and F. F. A. members. It is announced that the show will be held during the first week of December in place of the International Live Stock Exposition, which has taken place annually from 1900 through 1941 and was cancelled last year for the duration of the war. In 1942, a substitute showing of fat stock only, called the Chicago Market Fat Stock and Carlot Competition, was staged at the Chicago Stock Yards December 2 to 5, with an entry of 6,349 head of steers, lambs, and hogs, giving it first rank among all livestock shows in the country last year.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

LETTERS

(Continued from Page 4)

under the same conditions as in September, the weight would have been approximately the same as on September 20. My summer gain on 693 steers, 72 head of which were weighed August 26 and the remainder October 1, was an average of 283 pounds. My yearly gain, or, to be exact, about 11 months, was 363 pounds. My yearly gain on approximately the same number of heifers was 289 pounds. It was not possible to weigh all the heifers in the spring, but the one bunch that was weighed in the spring made more gain during the winter than the steers wintered under the same conditions, but gained much less in the summer.—A. A. SMITH, Sterling, Colo.

SENDS DUES ANYWAY

Enclosed is \$5 to renew my membership. At present I have no cattle, but I have some good horses, both saddle and work kind. However, I like to help the association, for I know it is doing a lot of good. Winter is nearly gone, but in the past few days we have had cold wind and flying frost. Very little snow has fallen. Last September a lot of rain fell. Grass greened up and froze. So the grass, especially buffalo grass, is nearly worthless. Other range grass is poor in quality. Cattle and sheep show it. A lot of hay feeding is necessary. Lots of water has soaked in this winter, which means early grass. Cattle of all kinds are high. I will be glad when the present World War ends. Help on ranches is plenty difficult to get.—LINN L. GIVLER, Powder River County, Mont.

INITIATED

We want very much to continue with the PRODUCER, and I am sending you \$2, as we expect by fall to increase the herd of 150 we have to that number. We like ranching in this country very much, but it is the driest year for fifty-one years, we are told, so we feel we are being initiated from the start.—MRS. J. P. DOLES, Pima County, Ariz.

LIKE A LION

Enclosed find \$1 check for another year of good reading that the stockman is interested in. If he takes the PRODUCER he is informed on all livestock matters. March came in like a lion but has not come to the lamb stage yet (March 11). THOS. S. HUMPHREYS, Fremont County, Wyo.

APPRECIATION

I have received two issues of the PRODUCER and your letter with your very generous offer. I want to thank you for

sending me the PRODUCER free of charge while I am in the service. I really appreciate this very much and I enjoy reading the magazine. It keeps a man who was in the cattle business in touch with the cattle industry in practically every phase of the industry.—PVT. CHESTER G. COFFEE, Camp White, Ore.

BEEF ABOUT ALL GONE

Stock has wintered fairly well. If the weather continues as it has been in the last two or three weeks, feed will be coming on early. Beef is about all gone—just enough left for local consumption.—J. P. SMITH, Siskiyou County, Cal.

SNOWBOUND

We have been entirely snowbound here the greater part of this week. We have had one of the worst blizzards that we have experienced for many years and have not seen a train for several days (March 18).—L. E. ARNDT, Ward County, N. D.

HAY USED UP

Range conditions look favorable, as we have had plenty of snow and rain. We are not having an early spring. Hay in this section is well used up.—CERYL SCHOTT, Lassen County, Cal.

THE SPANISH COW-PONY

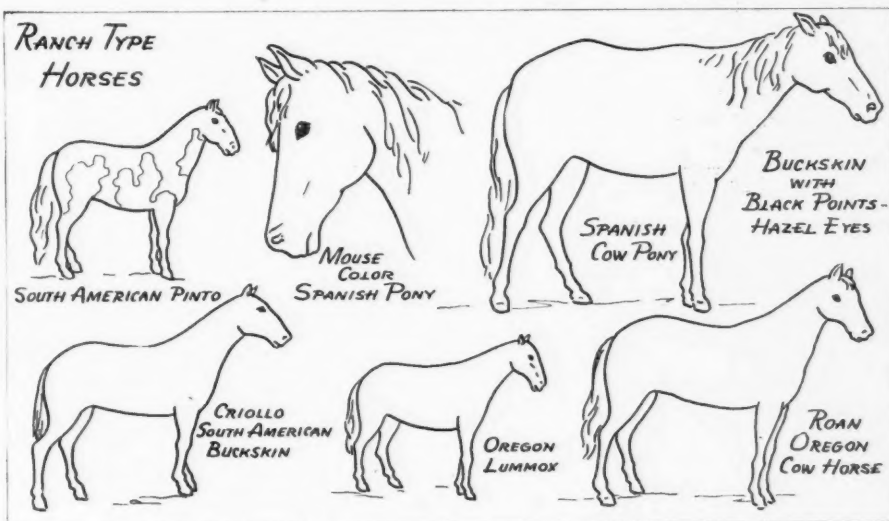
Am sending snaps of some of my horses, also sketches. According to my experience with cow-horses, the buckskin with black mane and tail—the Spanish cow-pony in sketch—is without doubt foundation stock of the best cow-horses ever known, though the descendants now may be of almost any color, size, or type; the more they become mixed with other breeds, the less they show their cow-horse qualities. Since only such qualities as size, heavier bone, and perfection in structure are considered, or speed for racing, that and lack of knowledge are likely responsible for their being forced out of existence.

It seems we have now modern sure-fire authorities on horses (not familiar

with this strain) who claim that native ponies in South America are exactly the same as we have here. From what I see of photos, the shape of head, type of eyes, etc., are same as the plain, ordinary jughead type of pintos and buckskins we have here in North America—a sort that lacks what it takes so far as a real cow-horse is concerned.

My argument is that they will have such head or at least that pair of certain type of clear, brown, shrewd, penetrating eyes as this one certain strain before they prove able to perform the close work, be as quick, keen, and clear headed as these ponies were, and this is by no means referring to just keen eyesight either. There seems to be as much evidence left of this strain in Oregon as anywhere else in western states, such as the roan cow-pony in the sketch. Even the Oregon LummoX likely carries some percentage of that stock. I am not good enough at drawing to bring out that certain profile or type of eyes I mention, but from the line of eyes down they are of slightly Roman nose, yet rather square at nostrils. The lower jaw, lean, is straight, light, and clear cut.

I still own an agy black that is quite distinctly a representative of this strain, also an aging mouse-color mare who has exactly such head as shown in sketch. It seems that if anyone handling these would take time out to study and compare the different types and results even as they are now mixed he could not but observe the difference, and that there must be strains of Spanish ponies imported here to North America that were entirely different from those they have in South America. They seem not to have the Appaloosa breed that we have. I am certain that the article published in the PRODUCER on South American native ponies some time last summer disclosed the real facts on that particular breed. Although I have never been there actually to see them, I have yet to see horses with such head and the plain type, dull, gawky eyes that prove much good. However, if they are in real good hands and given continuous work



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and strict training, they can become fairly good at cow-work. The other kind, given half the chance, will in comparison prove far superior.

I recall a certain small roan of somewhat this buckskin type, except not so closely coupled. Occasionally we had cattle buyers ride him. When these cattlemen happened over again even years later they were sure to stop in at the horse barn to inquire about the little



Top: Progeny of Spanish pony stock. There's personality about such a head. **Center:** This mare has the head attempted in the sketch. **Bottom:** This mare has clear, reddish brown eyes; when shed out, she shows clear-cut, finely shaped head; excellent profile despite the percentage of pinto; naturally shows up also a trifle wall-eyed.

roan they rode that time, admitting that he was certainly a real one. These ranchmen no doubt had a top cutting horse at home, but one like Old Dan they did not forget. He was just that outstanding from the average. For one who worked with him, understood him, allowed him his will to work as he saw fit, he was some cow-pony. Those who raise the kind that are only half good at cow-work and class them as good enough are doing nothing but additional harm.—**MILO BELSKY**, Bennett County, S. D.

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AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER